

**MINUTES**  
**CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**EverGRO**  
**Orange County, Virginia**  
**January 6, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Graves at 10:05 AM.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

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  
Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Greene County

**DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:**

David Cox, Greene County  
Molly Elgin McWilliams, Associate Director, Orange County

**STAFF PRESENT:**

David Massie, District Manager  
Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary/Financial Specialist  
Jack Bourdon, Conservation Specialist  
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist  
Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist  
Stephanie DeNicola, Education Specialist  
Richard Jacobs, 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, CDC, DCR  
Davis Lamb, Greene County BOS  
Emily Bennigsdorf, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Orange County

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

L. Graves called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Following a moment of silence, S. Yager led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were eight handouts: Technical Committee Additions, DCR Report, three Staff Reports, “A Guide to Government Alphabet Soup” (acronym sheet), Tree Sale Flyer, and 2026 VDOF Calendars. L. Graves introduced new Orange County Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, Emily Bennigsdorf, to the Board.

**2) DRAFT MINUTES**

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of December 2, 2025, Draft District Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. S. Morris moved to approve the Minutes as presented. M. Biniek seconded the motion. (S. Morris, M. Biniek, 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. The Operations Committee Report was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.2. S. Morris moved to adopt the Agenda as modified. D. Verhoff seconded the motion. (S. Morris, D. Verhoff, unanimous)

**4) CONSENT AGENDA**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT  
TREASURER’S REPORT

**5) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**5.1) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**December 17, 2025 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes (Updated)**

Present: Robert Bradford, Chairman; Lynn Graves, Madison; Mike Sands, Rappahannock; David Massie, District Manager; Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist; Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist; Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist; Lily Smith, Conservation Specialist; Cheyenne Sheridan, Conservation Specialist; Trevor Talley, Conservation Specialist; Jack Bourdon, Conservation Specialist; Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist

*Items in italics were added at the January 6, 2026 Board Meeting in Orange, Virginia*

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

Brant Snyder	CP-7-26-0024
Adisa Hinton	CP-7-26-0025
Kenneth Cook	CP-7-26-0011

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.

Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	County	Amount	Tax Credit
CCI-CNT	2026 VACS	Madison Farms Locust Dale LLC	07-26-0383	732116	Madison	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-CNT	2026 VACS	C.R. Tanner & Sons	07-26-0393	732754	Madison	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-CNT	2026 VACS	Shawn Woodfolk	07-26-0382	732115	Madison	\$ 5,915.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Ash-Lee-Farms	07-26-0414	733017	Greene	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Ash-Lee-Farms	07-26-0414	733021	Greene	\$ 20,500.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Bobby Pace	07-26-0384	732120	Orange	\$ 6,662.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Montebello LLC	07-26-0413	733011	Orange	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Bruce Hegyi	07-26-0415	733042	Orange	\$ 6,875.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	William S Lovelace	07-26-0409	732932	Madison	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Belle Plain Farm LLC	07-26-0392	732747	Madison	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Triple R Investments LLC	07-26-0391	732657	Madison	\$ 28,250.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Kenneth L Anderson	07-26-0395	732832	Culpeper	\$ 22,275.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Joseph R Brame, III	07-26-0396	732833	Orange	\$ 17,062.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Back of Lawrence	07-26-0404	732901	Orange	\$ 6,125.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-WP-4	2026 VACS	Kenwood LLC	07-26-0403	732876	Orange	\$ 7,450.00	\$ 0.00
FR-1	2026 VACS	Dana Milbank	07-26-0386	732131	Rappahannock	\$ 12,487.50	\$ 815.63
FR-1	2026 VACS	Adisa Hinton	07-26-0405	732913	Culpeper	\$ 26,085.00	\$ 1,703.75

SL-6N	2026 VACS	Rose River Farm	07-26-0014	732818	Madison	\$ 10,705.61	\$ 892.13
SL-6W	2026 VACS	John Wright	07-26-0389	732523	Orange	\$ 193,785.00	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2026 VACS	Kenneth Cook	07-26-0412	721367	Culpeper	\$ 29,467.50	\$ 2,455.63
SL-8H	2026 VACS	Madison Farms Locust Dale LLC	07-26-0385	732130	Madison	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2026 VACS	Shawn Woodfolk	07-26-0388	732290	Madison	\$ 4,832.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2026 VACS	Shawn Woodfolk	07-26-0388	732895	Madison	\$ 2,578.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2026 VACS	Douglas Coleman Farms LLC	07-26-0380	731983	Culpeper	\$ 9,302.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2026 VACS	Yowell Farm Enterprises	07-26-0304	726627	Madison	\$ 156.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2026 VACS	Glenmary Family Farm Partnership	07-26-0411	732985	Culpeper	\$ 166,172.80	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2026 VACS	Glenmary Family Farm Partnership	07-26-0411	733037	Culpeper	\$ 123,418.90	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2026 VACS	Glenmary Family Farm Partnership	07-26-0411	732986	Culpeper	\$ 4,314.70	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2026 VACS	Western View LLC	07-26-0360	731333	Culpeper	\$ 121,057.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2026 VACS	Western View LLC	07-26-0360	733043	Culpeper	\$ 60,781.90	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2026 VACS	Western View LLC	07-26-0360	731334	Orange	\$ 158.20	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2026 VACS	Brant Snyder	07-26-0402	732870	Culpeper	\$ 14,292.75	\$ 4,764.25
SL-6W	2026 VACS	Brant Snyder	07-26-0402	732869	Culpeper	\$ 32,671.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2026 VACS	David Sears	07-26-0398	732851	Culpeper	\$ 22,864.00	\$ 0.00

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

Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	County	Amount	Tax Credit
CCI-CNT	2026 VACS	C.R. Tanner & Sons	07-26-0393	732754	Madison	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-CNT	2026 VACS	Shawn Woodfolk	07-26-0382	732115	Madison	\$ 5,915.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-CNT	2026 VACS	Madison Farms Locust Dale LLC	07-26-0383	732116	Madison	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Somerset Plantation Inc	07-26-0339	730666	Orange	\$ 16,050.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Montebello LLC	07-26-0413	733011	Orange	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Ash-Lee-Farms	07-26-0414	733017	Greene	\$ 33,500.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Ash-Lee-Farms	07-26-0414	733021	Greene	\$ 20,500.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Kenneth L Anderson	07-26-0395	732832	Culpeper	\$ 19,525.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Bruce Hegyi	07-26-0415	733042	Orange	\$ 6,875.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Triple R Investments LLC	07-26-0391	732657	Madison	\$ 28,250.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Bobby Pace	07-26-0384	732120	Orange	\$ 6,662.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Tom Nixon	07-26-0346	731019	Orange	\$ 6,125.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Tom Nixon	07-26-0346	731021	Orange	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Tom Nixon	07-26-0346	731022	Orange	\$ 3,562.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Tom Nixon	07-26-0346	731023	Orange	\$ 2,887.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Tom Nixon	07-26-0346	731024	Orange	\$ 8,625.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Joseph R Brame, III	07-26-0396	732833	Orange	\$ 17,062.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Back of Lawrence	07-26-0404	732901	Orange	\$ 6,125.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Belle Plain Farm LLC	07-26-0392	732747	Madison	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	William S Lovelace	07-26-0409	732932	Madison	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-WP-4	2026 VACS	Kenwood LLC	07-26-0403	732876	Orange	\$ 7,450.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2025 VACS	M&W Farm LLC	07-25-0470	649336	Orange	\$ 64,656.18	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2025 VACS	James B Morris	07-25-0381	646465	Greene	\$ 37,893.90	\$ 469.28
SL-7	2026 VACS	William S Lovelace	07-26-0194	716775	Madison	\$ 13,201.00	\$ 1,137.50
SL-7	2025 VACS	Doug Hill*	07-25-0538	651227	Madison	\$ 20,190.72	\$ 1,090.10
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Daisy Field Inc.**	07-26-0260	724580	Orange	\$ 2,445.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2025 VACS	Ronald Taylor***	07-25-0366	646233	Orange	\$ 28,093.51	\$ 3,781.82

\*The Technical Committee approved an increase of \$3,436.00 for tying into an existing water system and associated shut off valves, which are required in the design specifications.

\*\*The Technical Committee approved an increase of \$1,250.00 for well system maintenance that is connected to the practice's water trough and for maintenance of temporary trough.

\*\*\*The Technical Committee approved an increase of \$7,739.70 for additional interior division fence and change of trough type.

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>
FR-3	2026 VACS	10 Gables Farm LLC*	07-26-0095	671840	Madison	\$ 18,592.50	\$ 0.00

\*The Technical Committee approved an increase of \$9,045.00 to plant an additional 1.8 acres of hardwood trees.

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-6W	2026 VACS	Rose River Farm	07-26-0014	659336	Madison	\$ 16,231.35	\$ 117.54
CCI-SL-6W	2026 VACS	Kenneth L Anderson	07-26-0395	732832	Culpeper	\$ 19,525.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2026 VACS	Douglas Coleman Farms LLC	07-26-0380	731983	Culpeper	\$ 9,302.00	\$ 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	Melvin Shifflett	07-26-0401	732868	Greene	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Patricia Greiner	07-26-0400	732861	Greene	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Maxwell Henshaw	07-26-0399	732852	Greene	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	James Ryan	07-26-0410	732934	Madison	\$ 1,625.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Cynthia Moravec	07-26-0248	733986	Madison	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	James Lettenberger	07-26-0187	733603	Orange	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Kelly Rousseau	07-26-0244	733451	Greene	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Alex Salle	07-26-0421	733453	Greene	\$ 270.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Stacie Allred	07-26-0418	733449	Greene	\$ 2,437.50
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Amanda Rossano	07-26-0408	732926	Orange	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Vivian Correa	07-26-0422	733457	Madison	\$ 2,600.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Susanna Wood	07-26-0428	733702	Madison	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Adam Mbundure	07-26-0430	733901	Orange	\$ 1,950.00

7) 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	William Morris	07-26-0387	732203	Culpeper	\$ 225.00
RB-1	PO17406	Mary Robinson	07-26-0406	732921	Culpeper	\$ 225.00
RB-1	PO17406	Ryan Barnhurst	07-26-0420	733974	Culpeper	\$ 225.00
RB-3M	PO17406	Rosanne Hines	07-26-0432	734044	Culpeper	\$ 3,900.00

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

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-1	DEQ17084	Mary Wiley	07-26-0419	733419	Rappahannock	\$ 360.00

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>
RB-3M	PO17407	Anthony Rogers	07-26-0407	732922	Orange	\$ 1,625.00
RB-1	PO17407	Gary Hogsten	07-26-0427	733620	Orange	\$ 360.00
RB-1	PO17407	Gary Hogsten	07-26-0427	733621	Orange	\$ 360.00
RB-3M	PO17407	Robyn Noriega	07-26-0431	733903	Orange	\$ 2,112.50
RB-3M	PO17407	Delton Anglin III	07-26-0426	733604	Orange	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	PO17407	Ronald Taylor	07-26-0424	733458	Orange	\$ 1,625.00

10) 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>
RB-1	Locally Funded	Michael Routt	07-26-0259	724505	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Julia Rios Hernandez	07-26-0252	722073	Culpeper	\$ 212.50
RB-1	Locally Funded	Peggy Ganoe	07-26-0087	667924	Greene	\$ 360.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Richard Hodkinson	07-26-0334	730253	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Michael Shephard	07-26-0330	730241	Greene	\$ 356.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Jayson Woods	07-26-0110	690955	Greene	\$ 600.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Stephen Miller</i>	<i>07-26-0221</i>	<i>720865</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 212.50</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Harriette Rosenblatt</i>	<i>07-26-0348</i>	<i>731204</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 260.00</i>
<i>RB-3</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Lisa Hill Monzon</i>	<i>07-26-0282</i>	<i>726080</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 3,750.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Alan Edmunds</i>	<i>07-26-0115</i>	<i>691041</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 343.75</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>James Lencalis</i>	<i>07-26-0294</i>	<i>731332</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 2,350.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Joyce Sharp</i>	<i>07-26-0030</i>	<i>660704</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,950.00</i>
<i>RB-4P</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Rebecca Clore</i>	<i>07-26-0433</i>	<i>734050</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 10,725.00</i>

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	Catherine Leonard	07-26-0055	661351	Culpeper	\$ 570.00
<i>RB-4</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Zueswyn Properties LLC</i>	<i>07-26-0263</i>	<i>724961</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 6,250.00</i>

12) The following Robinson 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-1	DEQ17220	Debra Roy	07-26-0133	703742	Madison	\$ 320.00

13) 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	DEQ17084	Cherl Crews	07-26-0052	661338	Rappahannock	\$ 320.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Mary Wiley</i>	<i>07-26-0419</i>	<i>733419</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 340.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Karen Stinnett</i>	<i>07-26-0362</i>	<i>731834</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 380.00</i>

14) 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	Erin Salling	07-26-0114	691025	Orange	\$ 212.50
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Zachery Santulli</i>	<i>07-26-0156</i>	<i>731961</i>	<i>Greene</i>	<i>\$ 212.50</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Hope Kidwell</i>	<i>07-26-0129</i>	<i>703108</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 1,047.20</i>

15) 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	Natalie Beck	07-26-0034	661298	Culpeper	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Sarah Wills	07-25-0589	651798	Madison	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	PO17407	Jessica Marshall	07-25-0650	657033	Orange	\$ 2,440.00
RB-3M	PO17407	James Murray II	07-25-0642	656931	Orange	\$ 1,787.50
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Cynthia Moravec</i>	<i>07-26-0248</i>	<i>722044</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,625.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>James Lettenberger</i>	<i>07-26-0187</i>	<i>716113</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 1,625.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Kelly Rousseau</i>	<i>07-26-0244</i>	<i>722027</i>	<i>Greene</i>	<i>\$ 1,625.00</i>

- 16) The District Manager gave an update on dams:
- a. Small dam repair funds have been approved by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board for gate valve replacements at Beautiful Run #4, Beautiful Run #5, and Beautiful Run #6, along with wave berm and spillway grading at Beautiful Run #6.

R. Bradford moved to approve the Technical Committee Report and Additions as presented. S. Morris seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, S. Morris, unanimous)

## 5.2) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

On December 2, 2025, R. Brame announced his resignation from the District Board, effective immediately. R. Bradford moved to accept his resignation. R. Williamson seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, R. Williamson, unanimous).

R. Bradford moved to recommend Associate Director, Molly Elgin McWilliams, to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board for appointment to fill Mr. Brame's position as Director of the Board. M. Biniek seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, M. Biniek, unanimous)

R. Bradford moved to approve the Operations Committee Report as presented. R. Williamson seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, R. Williamson, unanimous)

## 6) CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS

R. Runkle moved that the Board go into Closed Session at 10:15 A.M. as provided for in the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A) (1) to discuss Personnel Matters. The Associate Directors and the District Manager were invited to attend. M. Biniek seconded the motion. (R. Runkle, M. Biniek, unanimous)

Following the return from Closed Session, R. Runkle moved to reconvene at 10:22 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)

M. Biniek moved to accept the recommendations from the Personnel Committee. S. Morris seconded the motion. (M. Biniek, S. Morris, unanimous)

## 7) DIRECTOR REPORTS

D. Verhoff provided an update on his continued hoop house tomato production.

R. Runkle reported that he attended the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) Annual Meeting in early December. He also referenced a recent magazine article noting that Virginia and Maryland have among the highest rates of cover crop adoption nationwide.

M. Sands reported that he will soon be conducting a test on the efficiency of virtual fencing at a farm where he provides consulting services.

R. Bradford reported that his cattle continue to graze stockpiled forage despite the cold and dry conditions.

L. Graves reported on his attendance at the VASWCD Annual Meeting. During the meeting, Mr. Lynn Graves was recognized for 20 years of service and Mr. Robert Runkle was recognized for 25 years of service, with each receiving a commemorative pin. Mr. Graves also recognized three District staff members—Stephanie DeNicola, Richard Jacobs, and Spencer Yager—for 20 years of service and presented each with a framed certificate. The recognitions were met with applause. Mr. Graves further reported on legislative updates discussed at the meeting, including recent appointments within state leadership related to agriculture and forestry. He noted that the Association's Legislative Day is scheduled for January 15, with Kendall Tyree available to accommodate District visits on alternative dates. He also reported that he plans to attend the Virginia Agribusiness Council meeting on January 15. Finally, he reported that the State's proposed budget may include reduced funding for VCAP and advised Districts to be prepared for potential impacts.

S. Sharpe reported on her attendance at a recent Agricultural and Forestal District meeting and noted ongoing discussion regarding the definition of agricultural operations, particularly as it relates to agritourism activities and the entities affected. She also reported that she will be hosting educational webinars later this month for small homestead farmers interested in raising livestock, with additional information to be provided in her upcoming newsletter.

## 8) STAFF REPORTS

R. Jacobs reported Orange County is considering increasing erosion control requirements for a wider range of single family home projects in Lake of the Woods due to increased resident complaints regarding erosion and drainage issues. He also reported working with the Town of Culpeper to update the Town's Facility Standards Manual with a Drainage section. Additionally, Mr. Jacobs reported that he will be attending a DEQ stormwater meeting and a VCAP Technical Advisory Committee meeting next week. He also noted that he will be presenting on constructed wetlands and dry/wet swales at a virtual VCAP development session next week.

T. Talley reported on his attendance at last month's Land Preservation Workshop, which covered conservation easements and related tax incentives. He also reported that he will be attending Nutrient Management Planning training sessions later this month with other District staff.

S. DeNicola reviewed the "Guide to Government Alphabet Soup" handout distributed at the beginning of the meeting, explaining that it serves as a reference guide for commonly used District acronyms and practice codes. She also reported that approximately 30 tree sale orders have already been received and encouraged anyone interested in purchasing trees to submit their orders as soon as possible. Additionally, she reported that she is busy with classroom activities and planning for spring programming.

L. Smith reported that she and Ms. Sheridan recently completed an Engineering Job Approval Authority review with Amanda Pennington, District Engineering Services Manager. She noted that the review went well, though official notification has not yet been received.

S. Yager referenced Mr. Runkle's report and stated that available Conservation Application Suite data indicates that cover crop acreage in Virginia more than doubled between 2020 and 2025. He also noted that Virginia ranks among the leading states in the adoption of cover crops on fields used for soybean and corn production. Mr. Yager further reported that he attended the Association's Annual Meeting. He reported that he contacted the Virginia Seed Company regarding a donation to the Virginia Association of Conservation District Employees (VACDE) Benevolent Fund based on cover crop seed sales in Virginia, resulting in a \$1,500 donation for the year.

D. Massie reported on his attendance at the Association's Annual Meeting, noting that the District received recognition related to the VACDE Benevolent Fund donation, and that Mr. Yager was specifically recognized for leading this effort. He further reported that two District Directors and three District staff members were recognized for years of service. Mr. Massie reported that District Beautiful Run Dams #4, #5, and #6 have received funding for gate valve replacements and grading. He also reported that funding requests to the five member counties within the District are currently underway, with only one remaining to be submitted. He reported that the Conservation Programs Update Workshop is scheduled for March 13, 2026, and will satisfy a deliverable under the District's DCR grant agreement. He also reported attending Carl Stafford's retirement celebration, noting that it was well attended. Additionally, Mr. Massie reported that Rex Rexrode, District Conservationist, NRCS Culpeper Office, retired last week and that Ashleigh Cason has been detailed to fill the position until it is permanently filled. He concluded by reporting that he has moved into his new office and that Mr. Bourdon has relocated to his former office.

## 9) AGENCY REPORTS

DCR – D. Cross submitted a written report and highlighted several key items. She reminded Directors that Quarterly Reports are due January 15 and that IRS 1099 Forms and Virginia Tax Credits must be mailed by January 31. She noted that the mileage reimbursement rate, effective January 1, is

72.5 cents per mile, an increase of 2.5 cents. She also reminded Directors to complete FOIA and COIA trainings. D. Cross drew attention to a change in the VACS Manual updating the definition of an applicant. She shared three DCR-DSWC news items: Theresa Lucas has been hired as the new Conservation Data Technician, Crystal Lavin is the new Conservation District Coordinator in the Suffolk Regional Office, and David Buloca has been named the next Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources.

VDOF – G. Robeson reported that a new State Forester, Terrance Lasher, has been appointed. He also distributed VDOF 2026 calendars to those in attendance.

**10) PUBLIC COMMENT**

E. Bennigsdorf introduced herself, stating that she is originally from Denver, studied Animal Science, and previously held an agricultural position in Kansas prior to relocating to the District. She expressed enthusiasm about joining Orange Extension.

**11) PLAN FOR JANUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Committees will meet at the Culpeper District Office on Tuesday, January 20, 2026: 9:00 Legislative, 9:15 Personnel, 9:45 Operations, 10:15 Technical. The Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 3:30 PM at the Madison Extension Office. **BOARD MEETING FOR FEBRUARY WILL BE HELD AT 10:30 AM ON Tuesday, February 3, 2026, in person, at the Washington Volunteer Fire Hall in Rappahannock County.**

**12) ADJOURNMENT**

M. Biniek motioned to adjourn the December Board meeting at 11:07 AM. R. Williamson seconded the motion. (M. Biniek, R. Williamson, unanimous)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary/Financial Specialist

Lynn Graves, Chairman



Date Approved: February 3, 2026