

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

August 18, 2026

Present: Lynn Graves – Chairman, Bob Williamson, Anthony Jewett, David Massie

- 1) The District Manager reported on the FY26 assessments of SWCD compliance with the Administrative and Operational Support Grant Agreement and the Cost Share and Technical Assistance Grant Agreement. The District fully met all performance deliverables for the Administrative and Operational Support Grant Agreement. For the Cost Share and Technical Assistance Grant Agreement, the District fully met all deliverables except one, which was partially fulfilled. These results improved over the FY25 assessments (Attachment A).
- 2) The Committee discussed Certificates of Deposit (CDs) at Oak View National Bank that mature this fall. The Committee recommends renewing the CDs with the current bank.
- 3) The Committee reviewed the Financial Reserves Policy for FY27. The Reserves Policy has minor increases from FY26. The Committee recommends Board approval (Attachment B).
- 4) The Committee discussed the proposal that the Board consider adopting an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy. The proposed policy was introduced at the July Operations Committee Meeting. The policy is intended to establish clear expectations for employee use of AI tools, protect District data, and maintain public trust. The Committee recommends Board approval to be incorporated into the District Policy (Attachment C).
- 5) The District Manager updated the Committee on the Budget Template process for the upcoming year. The Culpeper District's position is similar to the template process of two years ago. It should support District funding priorities.
- 6) The District Manager reported that the financial audit of the District with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates is scheduled for December 2, 2026.
- 7) The District Manager reported on existing TMDL grant projects, additional opportunities for increased funding for existing grants, and the submission of application for Lower Rapidan TMDL.

Lynn Graves, Chairman



Date Approved: September 1, 2026

Education/Public Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2026

Directors: Lynn Graves, Anthony Jewett, Robert Runkle, Dennis Verhoff, Bob Williamson

Staff: Stephanie DeNicola, Richard Jacobs, David Massie, Jack Bourdon, Trevor Talley

- A. **Piedmont Native Plant Guides:** Inquiries have increased since the quarterly newsletter was published.
- B. **School Programs:** Programs are detailed in Item O.
- C. **Media and Publications:** The Fall issue is open for article ideas. The Participant Corner will focus on education programs and will be written by the Eastern View High School Envirothon Coach Rachel Stuart and the returning team members.
- D. **Annual Report:** Stephanie is working on the Annual Report.
- E. **Awards Banquet 2026:** The Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, November 19 at Pepper's Grill. NRCS is nominating Fred Eberle for the Wildlife Habitat Award. Stephanie has not received additional nominations for Educator of the Year.
- F. **Envirothon:** The Eastern View High School team held their first meeting on August 14. There is a new team at Orange County High School. The Area II training is scheduled at Graves for Saturday, November 21.
- G. **Grants:** Stephanie submitted her final report for the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund grant that made Critter Cubes. It was accepted by the staff for the Fund. Stephanie may resubmit the grant to make additional sets of the cubes for the 4th grade MWEE program.
- H. **Rain Barrels:** The Square payment processing system is being explored.
- I. **Lawn Soil Testing Program:** Sample requests are stable.
- J. **CSWCD Swag:** Lynn recommended sending an email to Directors and staff for them to rank the swag ideas.
- K. **Interns:** The interns have completed their summer with the District. Both expressed gratitude for the experience.
- L. **District playing cards:** VASWCD is developing a set of playing cards with fun facts about each District. Lynn recommended that Stephanie request ideas from Board and staff by email.
- M. **Info Sessions:** October: Water supply plans (Justin Chen, DEQ); December: Virginia Working Landscapes (Justin Proctor)
- N. **Info Session Ideas:** VASWCD (Stephanie contacted)
- O. **Outreach:** Intermediate fencing workshop (7/22); Meeting with Jordan Hummill at RCES (7/23); Meeting with all 4th Grade Culpeper Teachers (7/30); Greene Livestock Show (7/30-8/1); Culpeper Schools' Back to School Bash (8/1); Orange County Schools' Teacher PD (8/3); 4th Grade Teachers at Waverly Yowell ES (8/5); 4th Grade Teachers at Nathanael Greene ES (8/5); 4th Grade Teachers at Ruckersville ES (8/7); VACDE Employees' Training (8/18-20/26); Yowell ES 4th Grade (8/21-9/2); AG Richardson ES 4th Grade (8/21-8/27) Sycamore Park ES 4th Grade (9/8 and 9/9); MWEE Assistant training (9/8 & 9/9); Locust Grove MS Career Day (9/3); New Landowner workshop (9/4); Prospect Heights MS Career Day (9/16); William Monroe MS MWEE (9/20-9/28); 4th Grade teachers MWEE to Port Isobel (11/6-9); William Monroe HS Environmental Science classes (11/12 & 11/13); Awards banquet (11/19); Area II Envirothon training (11/21); VA Black Bear Festival (6/5/2027); NCF Envirothon in MD (7/25-7/31, 2027)

Lynn Graves, Board Chairman



Date Approved: September 1, 2026

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

August 18, 2026

Present: Anthony Jewett – Chairman, Lynn Graves, Robert Runkle, David Massie

1. The Committee Chairman discussed the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's (VASWCD) Area II Legislative Zoom Meeting. The meeting focused on the legislative items and policy book recommendations Area II wishes to move forward to the VASWCD for consideration (Attached).

Lynn Graves, Board Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Graves". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Date Approved: September 1, 2026