

MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY
APR 05 2013
ADMINISTRATION

CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Reva Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department
Culpeper, Virginia
March 5, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Brame at 9:40 AM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Robert Brame, Greene County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
Alyson Sappington, Orange County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Monira Rifaat, Rappahannock County
Jocelyn P. Lampert, Culpeper County, Director At-Large
Jim Byrne, Madison County Associate Director
Evelyn Kerr, Rappahannock County
Lynn Graves, Madison County
Andrew Campbell, Culpeper County
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Laura Campbell, Associate Director
Bob Kane, Madison County

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Steve Morris, Greene County Associate Director
John Genho, Rappahannock County Associate Director
Brad Jarvis, Madison County, Virginia Cooperative Ex.
Warren Lee, Orange County Associate Director
Dick McNear, Rappahannock County Associate Director

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Wichelns, District Manager
JoAnn Neal, Administrative Secretary
Richard Jacobs, Conservation Specialist
David Massie, Conservation Specialist
Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist
Evan Blumenstein, Conservation Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT: Rex Rexrode, NRCS
Debbie Cross, DCR, CDC
David Bryan, Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, NRCS
Brian Daniel, Madison County, Erosion Control Administrator

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

R. Brame welcomed everyone to Culpeper County. Following a moment of silence, R. Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were five handouts: Technical Committee Report Addendum, Education Committee Report Addendum, D. Cross, DCR, CDC Monthly Report, Virginia Agribusiness Outlook from Lynn Graves and Rex Rexrode, NRCS, Monthly Report.

2) **DRAFT MINUTES**

R. Brame called for approval of the February 5th, 2013 Board Meeting minutes. A. Sappington moved to approve the February 5th, 2013 minutes. T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (Sappington, O'Halloran, unanimous)

3) **AGENDA APPROVAL**

R. Brame called for Agenda approval. S. DeNicola requested the Educational Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 6.1. R. Bradford requested the Technical Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed as 6.2. M. Rifaat requested the Legislative Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed as 6.3 on the Agenda. R. Brame requested the Madison County request be placed on the Agenda as 6.4 and authorization for the Technical Committee to act on behalf of the Board be placed on the Agenda as 6.5. T. O'Halloran moved to approve the amended Agenda. J. Lampert seconded the motion. (O'Halloran, Lampert, unanimous)

4) **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda adopted as modified.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OPERATIONS

TREASURE'S REPORT

- 5) **Proposed Hoover Road-Madison County Access to Shenandoah National Park** – Brian Daniel, Madison County Erosion Control Administrator representing the County Administrator, presented to the Board of Directors a presentation for the proposed access road into Shenandoah National Park. Madison County is asking for a resolution from the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District in support of the proposed access into the Shenandoah National Park. The request was sent to the District Operations Committee for further discussion and reporting back to the Board.

6.1) **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA –**

Education – S. DeNicola presented the Education Committee's recommendation to sponsor 5-10 scholarships for District agricultural producers to attend the American Forage and Grasslands Council's National Tour at Graves Mountain Lodge May 22-24, 2013. The cost would be \$200 per scholarship. This would be two per county. The proposal is to split the cost with the Farm Bureau in each county. G. Wichelns stated it would come out of an existing budget item. The Board was in unanimous support.

G. Wichelns stated he put forth an email to Area II Districts inviting them to collectively spend an additional \$1,000 to get our logos and our names on the registration packages to help promote our organizations with local producers. The \$1,000 would be split 6 ways. John Marshall was the only District that responded. G. Wichelns recommended Culpeper and John Marshall Districts sponsor a breakfast instead, signage with the logo, recognition at the event and get the opportunity to do a brief presentation at breakfast for a total of \$250.00. Each district would pay \$125.00. T. O'Halloran motioned to approve. M. Rifaat seconded the motion. Motion passed (O'Halloran, Rifaat, unanimous)

6.2) **TECHNICAL REPORT**

***Indicates that practices were added at the Tuesday, March 5, 2013 Board Meeting**

- 1) The following BMP applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding, *pending additional funds from DCR*:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Tax Credit</u>
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SL6	VACS	David Crowe	Greene	\$ 35,205.00	\$ 2,933.75
WP2	VACS	Cherry Pec Partnership	Culpeper	\$5,038.27	\$ 419.86
SL1	VACS	Springhaven Farm*	Madison	\$4,997.50	\$ 0.00
SL6	VACS	Mark Roberts*	Greene	\$ 22,563.75	\$ 1,880.31
CCI-SE1	VACS	Duck Farm LLC*	Madison	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL9	VACS	Jimmy Henshaw*	Greene	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 337.50
SL8H	VACS	Wayne T. Harris*	Orange	\$ 7,075.00	\$ 0.00
SL8B	VACS	Wayne T. Harris*	Orange	\$ 4,976.50	\$ 0.00

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

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB1	Candy Barrett	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB1	Donald Breeden	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB1	Elizabeth Ford	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB1	Grace Arrington	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB1	Joan Taylor	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB1	Connie Shepherd*	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB1	Diana Dyer*	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB1	Ralph Figgers*	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB1	Audrey Sarate*	Madison	\$ 150.00

- 3) The following Upper Hazel River TMDL Residential applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB1 (2)	Richard Rose	Rappahannock	\$ 300.00
RB1	Paul Needham	Rappahannock	\$ 150.00
RB3	Emerson Bennett*	Culpeper	\$ 3,000.00
RB4	Stuart Trope*	Rappahannock	\$ 4,000.00

- 4) The following Upper York River TMDL Residential applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB1 (2)	Ricky Shifflett	Orange	\$ 300.00
RB3	William Alley	Orange	\$ 3,000.00
RB1	Barbara Jasper*	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB1	Roger Zerante*	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB1	Elmina Harrison*	Orange	\$ 150.00

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

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB1	George Dixon	Rappahannock	\$ 150.00
RB3	Joseph Martinez	Culpeper	\$ 252.00
RB1 (2)	Eric Gilchrist*	Madison	\$ 237.50

- 6) The following Robinson River TMDL Residential participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB1	John Dodson*	Madison	\$ 150.00

RB1	Grace Arrington*	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB1	Joan Taylor*	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB1	Candy Barrett*	Madison	\$ 150.00

7) The following DGIF Quail program applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
WL3	Samantha Adhoot*	Rappahannock	\$ 2,310.00
WL2	Mount Vernon Farm*	Rappahannock	\$ 1,545.00
WL3	Mount Vernon Farm*	Rappahannock	\$ 3,815.00

- 8) The District submitted 18 applications for the second round of Virginia Enhanced Conservation Initiative (VECI) funds. All the contract requests were fulfilled and the District was allocated an additional \$113,924.54 to cover the remaining 15% - 25%.
- 9) The annual dam maintenance inspections will take place on Wednesday, April 17th and Thursday, April 18th. The District will advertise work for the dam training dikes starting the last week of February. Fence maintenance on Beautiful Run dams #4 and #7 has been completed. Herb Putz, owner of Beautiful Run #7, has threatened legal action over the fence maintenance upstream of the dam in the upper pool section which the District is not responsible for.
- 10) The Technical Committee reviewed the Annual Plan of Work. All aspects of committee operations are being fulfilled.
- 11) The Technical Committee reaffirmed the Board's decision concerning the Virginia Small Animal Feeding Operations Evaluation and Assessment Strategy between VDEQ and VDACS. Any requests received by District staff from VDEQ or VDACS for information specific to any operation will only be released when accompanied by written permission of the landowner. Any agency requests regarding the strategy should be forwarded to DEQ.
- 12) The Technical Committee is recommending to the Board the approval of up to \$1,000 for the sponsorship of ten producers (two per county) to attend the American Forage and Grassland Council's Annual Tour, held this May at Graves Mountain Lodge.
- R. Brame called for a vote to accept the Technical Committee report as amended. (Approved, passed)

6.3) LEGISLATIVE

M. Rifaat reported the Legislative Committee met on February 19th and the Operations and the Legislative Committee's reports both state that we are going to receive an increase of \$10,000 per SWCD in operations funding. This did not materialize. The operations funding amount was changed to slightly over \$6,000.00 for each district. In total, \$300,000 instead of \$470,000 for the Districts was approved. In the legislative report issued by D. Wells, 3rd page HB 2048, with the equivalent Senate Bill - the bills went to the conference committee because the House and the Senate version did not agree. The HB 2048 proposed all water quality programs at DCR would go to DEQ but the Districts were to stay with DCR. The Senate version included transferring Districts. The Conference Committee consisted of 3 Senate and 3 House members and they adopted the House version of the bill. The House version proposed all water quality programming at DCR can move to DEQ, but the Districts were to stay with DCR. There is a rider on the bill that states the districts are to stay with DCR for a year, but during the course of the year a study group will be appointed to further study the options for Districts. L. Graves stated this will be a new study group.

Another item is HB2209, the Soil and Water Board is taking on new responsibilities and new authority. The Board is to oversee District's programs and to allocate general fund money to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to support their operation.

M. Rifaat stated the work of the Legislative Committee could not have been done without the help of D. Wells and G. Wichelns who stayed on top of the issues and thanked them for all of their help this year.

L. Graves handed out the Agribusiness Council Outlook.

6.4) MADISON COUNTY

T. O'Halloran stated he did not mind supporting the resolution for Madison County. L. Graves reminded the Board to keep in mind that there are organizations, Trout Unlimited as an example, that are set against opening the gate to the Shenandoah National Park in Madison County. So you do have the negative part to think about. You will be allowing all the vehicles coming along side a stream. B. Kane stated Rapidan River is one of the top trout streams on the East Coast. M. Rifaat read the resolution that was tabled by the Rappahannock Board of Supervisors in support of Madison County. Suggestion was made to include environmental concerns and or considerations into our resolution. T. O'Halloran made the motion to support the resolution. M. Rifaat seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion failed. A. Sappington made the motion to send it to Operations Committee for discussion. R. Bradford seconded the motion. (Sappington, Bradford, unanimous)

6.5) TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The reallocation funding from DCR for ag conservation projects may come at any time and the Board is authorizing the Technical Committee to act on behalf of the Board and address the issue of reallocation funding that needs to take place before the next Board meeting. R. Bradford made the motion. M. Rifaat seconded the motion. (Bradford, Rifaat, unanimous)

7) DIRECTORS REPORTS

- A. Sappington reported that equine related problems seem to be increasing and are getting to be a large issue. There is a huge need for education in this area. Currently there is a vacancy at the Mare Center in Middleburg and that position used to be an extension equine focused on extension equine issues. It seemed to have evolved into more of a teaching academic position. TJSWCD would like to lobby for the extension funds to be directed to an extension position centrally located to Orange County or Madison County. R. Bradford will ask B. Jarvis for more input on this information. The Technical Committee will report back at the next Board meeting.
- T. O'Halloran reported the National Forest and Grassland Council has not been very well publicized.
- B. Kane reported that there are two new groups focusing on grazing; one of the groups is supported by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.
- J. Lampert reported her farm has been sold to a retired couple from Richmond and that they will be continuing with the tree farm and will add honey bees as well.
- R. Runkle reported that in the Greene Supervisors meeting, one of their biggest concerns was the new fees that the state will ask for stormwater permitting. Farm Bureau in Greene has started their series of meetings for legislative proposals for next year.
- M. Rifaat reported the Board of Supervisors in Rappahannock have the same concerns for the single family projects fees. Newly build home fee of \$2,700 of which 27% will go to DCR. A. Sappington stated there will be a different certification for inspection than for erosion and sediment control. Rappahannock County had a concern for the cost of training the personnel. G. Wichelns stated there is a grant to help with the cost of the training. The County would still be responsible for the enforcement.
- L. Graves reported a Grafting Workshop coming up Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at the Madison Extension Office starting time 10 a.m.
- R. Brame handed out an article on land preservation and conservation easements.

8) STAFF REPORTS

- Greg reported having several grant proposals that the District is working on. One is with S. DeNicola for after school conservation education. Another is for the Robinson River TMDL. Also, there is a small urban forestry grant opportunity.

- Henny reported she will be representing the District at the April 6th, 2013 Horse Expo, at the Kelly's Ford Equestrian Center.
- Stephanie reported the newsletter is at the printers. Upcoming events – Heritage Day at Graves Mountain Lodge – April 6th. Summer Camps – Holiday Lakes, Forestry Camp and Youth Conservation Camp at Virginia Tech, and scholarships for the high school students.
- Richard announced that he has been recommended by the Urban Committee of the Association of Districts to serve on the BMP clearinghouse for all of the Stormwater practices and erosion and sediment control. It is a state committee function. Their role is to review various stormwater practices and other control measures for construction practices. They have quarterly meetings. Richard is looking for the support of the Board of Directors. A. Sappington motion to support Richard's nomination. M. Rifaat seconded the motion. (Sappington, Rifaat, unanimous)
Richard reported on the Urban Committee pilot Urban cost-share program that is ongoing. There are two practices - one is converting managed turf area to native meadow or landscaped area. The other practice is rain water harvesting. If you know of anyone who might be interested please let us know. Eligible applicants must be non-agricultural.

9) **AGENCY REPORTS** **NRCS**

R. Rexrode reported the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) had its 2nd round of 28 applications – 14 were approved. There will be a 3rd round of approvals to come.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program has received an allocation of 4 million dollars for contracts in the Bay Watershed. The Service Center will be accepting signups for the program thru March 15th. A second signup period will occur.

Sequester – at this point little is known about how sequester will affect NRCS operations in Virginia. The acting Chief believes that NRCS will not have to furlough any employees.

Area Engineering Assistance – Tata Anderson has accepted a position with the Army Corps of Engineers and will be leaving next week.

The office remodeling project has been completed and R. Rexrode thanked the District staff for all the help to make the process a success.

If you have a federal contract, because of a change in the computer financial management system there were glitches issuing 1099's in a timely manner. They will be issuing them by the 1st of March.

DCR

D. Cross reported we must keep on the landowners to get the BMP practices installed to minimize the carryovers. Supplemental funds carried over on June 30th, must be paid by December 31st 2013. Anyone who is being funded with the VECI fund, if there was a tax credit, it must be rescinded and the tax credit removed. Reallocation of 2013 VACS funding is ongoing. As of the date of this report I have not received formal notice of how the funds will be redistributed. The allocation is 1.8 million. Operations/Legislation – an additional \$300,000 for operations (\$6,381/district) and \$254,000 for SWCD owned dams for maintenance and repair (\$1,000/dam maintenance, \$150,000 for small dam repairs). The membership of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board will be changing. Right now the membership is twelve; it will be reduced to nine. It will be done as members terms expire. The Code changed so that any future recommendations for appointment will include consultations with Virginia Farm Bureau and the Virginia Agribusiness Council.

March 12th - SWCD Dam Owners Work Group, DOF Charlottesville, Emergency Action Plans

March 21st – Dam Owners Work Group meeting at DOF Charlottesville, Emergency Action Planning is the topic of the meeting.

March 27th – VA Soil & Water Conservation Board – the agenda will likely include RMP draft regulations and public comment.

March 29th – Area III Spring Meeting, Ruther Glen, Host Hanover-Caroline SWCD
April 4th – VASWCD Board meeting. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., ODEC Conference Room – Glen Allen
April 5th – Potomac Watershed Roundtable, Dahlgren, King George County hosting
April 18th - Area I Spring Meeting, Host Headwaters SWCD
May 2nd - Area II Spring Meeting (date TBD) host John Marshall SWCD

QUAIL

D. Bryan reported the new quail habitat BMP's will be through the Department of Forestry. These are the 4 new practices that are administered by DOF. 1. Pre commercial thinning, 2. Commercial thinning's of small acreage, 3. Short leaf pine plantings, and 4. Chemical release. All five counties in the District are eligible. Rappahannock County currently is getting the most applications for quail. There is a landowner in Madison County who will be doing 80 to 100 acres between the forestry program and the WL3 practice. D. Bryan will be moving to the Hanover office. He will still be covering our area.

10) **PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD – None**

11) **PLAN FOR MARCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in ORANGE).**

Committees will meet on Tuesday, March 19th, 2012, at the Orange USDA Service Center. Education 8:30, Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, and Technical 10:00.

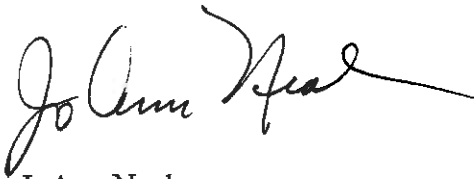
APRIL TO BE HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND, 2013 IN GREENE COUNTY AT THE BLUE RIDGE CAFÉ.

12) **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made to adjourn the February 2013 Board meeting at 11:45 by M. Rifaat.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Brame



JoAnn Neal
Administrative Secretary



Director _____
Date Approved 4-2-2013

