

MINUTES

CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Madison Volunteer Fire Department

Madison, Virginia

February 7, 2012

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

ORANGE COUNTY

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ADMINISTRATION

Robert Brame, Greene County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
Lynn Graves, Madison County
Bob Kane, Madison County
Brad Jarvis, Madison County, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Jim Byrne, Madison County Associate Director
Alyson Sappington, Orange County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Laura Campbell, Culpeper County Associate Director
Andrew Campbell, Culpeper County
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Jocelyn P. Lampert, Culpeper County, Director At-Large
Evelyn Kerr, Rappahannock County

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Cathy Kloetzli, Greene County Associate Director, VCE
Richard McNear, Rappahannock County Associate Director
John Genho, Rappahannock County Associate Director
Warren Lee, Orange County Associate Director
Steve Morris, Greene County Associate Director
Monira Rifaat, Rappahannock County

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Wichelns, District Manager
JoAnn Neal, Administrative Secretary
Richard Jacobs, Conservation Specialist
Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist
Evan Blumenstein, Conservation Specialist
Stephanie DeNicola, Education & Communication Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rex Rexrode, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Jim Hilleary, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Warrenton

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

R. Brame welcomed everyone to Madison County. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, G. Wichelns introduced four handouts: 1) Addendum to the Technical Committee Report – Practices to be Approved, Cancellations, and Payments, 2) Finance Committee Report, 3) NRCS Monthly report and 4) DCR Monthly Report and District Director Orientation Programs.

2) DRAFT MINUTES

R. Brame called for a motion to approve the January 2, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes. L. Campbell moved for approval of the Minutes. A. Sappington seconded the motion. (Campbell, Sappington, unanimous)

3) AGENDA APPROVAL

R. Brame called for Agenda approval. R. Bradford requested Technical Committee be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda under 5.1. B. Jarvis moved to approve the Agenda as

amended. B. Kane seconded the motion. (Jarvis, Kane, unanimous).

4) CONSENT AGENDA

R. Brame called for amended Consent Agenda approval. R. Runkle moved approval as amended. L. Graves seconded the motion. (Runkle, Graves, unanimous)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION

OPERATIONS

DCR Grant Agreement Bay – 2011-09-PT York River Grant

TREASURER’S REPORT

NRCS PLANS – NONE

5) NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

R. Bradford, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported the current officers will remain in office. R. Brame, Chair; T. O’Halloran, Treasurer. R. Bradford nominated L. Graves for Vice-Chair and asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. Brad Jarvis moved to accept R. Bradford’s nomination of L. Graves for Vice-Chair. B. Kane seconded the motion. (Jarvis, Kane, unanimous)

5.1) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

**Indicates that practices were added at the February 7, 2012 Board Meeting in Culpeper, Virginia*

1. The following BMP applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Tax Credit</u>
SL6	Louisa Bradford	Orange	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 450.00
SL6	Carl Morris	Greene	\$ 23,164.50	\$ 1,930.38
SL6	Gayle Collier	Greene	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 400.00
SL6	Alton Keel	Greene	\$ 29,975.25	\$ 2,497.94
LE1T	Stephen Hill	Madison	\$ 46,251.90	\$ 2,040.53
LE1T	Doug Lapp	Rappahannock	\$ 7,142.30	\$ 315.10
WL3	Shirley Estes	Madison	\$ 3,395.00	\$ 0.00
LE1T	W. J. Davis*	Madison	\$ 33,095.60	\$ 1,460.10

2. The following BMP participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Tax Credit</u>
SL6	George Haney	Greene	\$ 33,656.14	\$ 2,804.68
SL6	Peter Rice	Madison	\$ 7,299.75	\$ 608.31
SL6	Ronnie Hawkins	Madison	\$ 3,942.83	\$ 328.57
SL6	Carroll Deane	Greene	\$ 20,892.75	\$ 1,741.06
SL6	Cherry Grove Farm	Orange	\$ 5,911.50	\$ 492.63
WP2A	Celia Dollarhide	Madison	\$ 7,417.77	\$ 0.00

3. There was an increase on a current project. The increase was for George Haney and includes extra fencing and an additional watering system. The additional cost share is for \$5,567.14 which is reflected in the payment figure shown above.
4. 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	Jolene Vass	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Brad Jackson	Madison	\$150.00
RB4	Brad Jackson	Madison	\$4,000.00
RB4	Barbara Reyer	Madison	\$4,000.00
RB1	Gilbert Whitehouse	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Gilbert Whitehouse	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Charles Turner	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Malcolm Davis	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Arlene Smith	Madison	\$150.00
RB3	Arlene Smith	Madison	\$3,000.00
RB1	Delores Lee	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	William Crossman*	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Billy Nicholson*	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Bill Lacy*	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Charles McDowell*	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Linda Bussey*	Madison	\$150.00

5. The following Robinson River TMDL Residential applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB1	Malcolm Davis	Madison	\$150.00
RB3	Michelle Bottiaux	Madison	\$400.00
RB1	Risser Carter	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Judy Butler	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	John Kinde	Madison	\$137.50
RB1	Melissa Behl	Madison	\$150.00
RB4	Melissa Behl	Madison	\$2,800.00
RB1	Charles Turner	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Delores Lee*	Madison	\$150.00
RB1	Arlene Smith*	Madison	\$150.00
RB3	Arlene Smith*	Madison	\$142.50

6. 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	Carl Lovern	Rappahannock	\$150.00
RB3	Carl Lovern	Rappahannock	\$3,000.00
RB1	Joseph Martinez*	Culpeper	\$150.00
RB1	Winifred White*	Culpeper	\$150.00
RB4P	Michelle Galler*	Rappahannock	\$4,500.00
RB1	Ann Brown*	Rappahannock	\$150.00
RB3	Ann Brown*	Rappahannock	\$3,000.00

7. The following Upper Hazel River TMDL Residential applicant have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB1	Carl Lovern*	Rappahannock	\$130.00
RB3	Carl Lovern*	Rappahannock	\$550.00

8. The dam breach inundation study draft report (Mountain Run Dam #18, Catalpa) has been reviewed by the District. It appears that the current spillway capacity meets state requirements for a high hazard dam, thus no enlargement of the earthen emergency spillway will be required. We have received a letter stating we will be funded to replace the gate valve and rebuild the wave berm on Beautiful Run #11 (Weaver). District staff is working on having two of the dams limed as soon as weather permits.
9. The District Manager gave a brief update to the Committee on a conversation he had with Darrell Marshall of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) on the pending Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) VDACS, the Agribusiness Council and others. There will be future efforts to inventory animal feeding operations that do not require permitting, but are suspect regarding their environmental impact. Outreach to these producers will be targeted under the MOU.
10. The District will commence an outreach effort officially announcing the supplemental agricultural BMP funds once confirmation of an allocation is received.
11. The Town of Culpeper approached CSWCD to provide land development site plan review services for the town. CSWCD will provide services by contract on a 6 month trial basis.

R. Runkle moved to accept the amended Technical Committee Minutes. A. Sappington seconded the motion. R. Bradford abstained. Motion passed.

6) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

B. Kane reported on two meetings since the last Board Meeting. One meeting was prior to the Legislative Day on January 16, 2012; one subsequent to that. B. Kane met and worked with representatives from Headwaters SWCD, Senator Hangers main constituency, as well as Natural Bridge SWCD. Senator Hanger previously agreed to sponsor a budget amendment \$254,000 for small dams repairs. The \$254,000 will be split between 104 district dams in 12 districts.

In D. Wells' update to SWCD's there is a bill to change the state code so that soil and water conservation districts directors are appointed by the elected officials of the counties and not elected. Northern Virginia (Chantilly) wanted this change because no one knows who the candidates on the ballot are. The bill was tabled and will not rise again. Uranium mining - nothing is happening for now. B. Kane reported it was awkward to see the legislators on that day since they just finished amending the Governor's Budget.

E. Kerr reported meeting with Delegate Webert and that he and a couple of other delegates are going to submit an amendment that would restore the budget cuts to conservation funding that the Governor had proposed.

G. Wichelns reported that HB 1065 has passed the House and that it is going to require all of our local governments to adopt stormwater control programs - no options. S. Sappington reported that the bill had passed in the Senate. Included is an already adopted new fee schedule for permits and the intention of the new fees is to enable local governments to fund the program and the state to provide oversight. The fees are to be split between local government (72%) and state government (28%).

J. Byrne and L. Campbell reported on their attendance at Legislative Day and meeting with Senator Hanger and Delegate Scott.

R. Brame thanked all directors for their legislative efforts and recognized the benefits to the Culpeper District of having such dedicated directors.

A. Sappington reminded the Board of their intention to sponsor a multi/District breakfast for the legislators. Thomas Jefferson District is very interested in doing this. Ten localities would be included with just the Culpeper and Thomas Jefferson District. R. Brame suggested taking this to the Legislative Committee and having the breakfast sometime in June and possibly including others.

7) DIRECTORS REPORTS

- B. Jarvis reported the last meeting of the Resource Management Plan Task Force will happen next Tuesday. The regulations have been written and are in final draft. There will be one last attempt at changing the regulations at that time. The regulations are going to be tough. To get a certified resource management plan is not going to be an easy task with the elements that are in it, but if you are seeking safe harbor than that is to be expected. B. Jarvis reported February 18th there will be a Fruit School at Graves Mountain Lodge – theme will be stink bugs.
- L. Graves thanked G. Wichelns, D. Massie and S. Yager for the input to the meeting held at Graves Mountain Lodge on January 19th, 2012 for producer members of the Madison Farm Bureau.
- J. Lampert announced she is a member of the Board of Directors for the Virginia Christmas Tree Association who have scholarships available for students who are studying Forestry, Horticulture, or a related discipline. She has the link for the application. There are two \$750 scholarships available.

The Culpeper Minutes front page has an article /project at the Eastern View High School that CSWCD was instrumental in getting started and completed.

- L. Campbell reported on an article from the New York Times on Saturday, “Activist Fight Green Projects”. Conservation programs are going to be reported in a negative view by some in the political arena. Laura read the first paragraph to the Board and then passed around the article. L. Campbell reported the Master Naturalists had an open house at Eastern View High School where S. DeNicola attended last Saturday. Eastern View High School Envirothon team participated in the event.
- L. Campbell reported on the pond built on T. Trolio’s property in Culpeper County. Reportedly the pond was approved as an agricultural pond without review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Discussion followed on the dam and problems that occurred with the Corp of Engineers.
- R. Runkle reported on two meetings held in Greene County. B. Jarvis held one meeting and G. Wichelns held another meeting with Greene District Directors for enhanced outreach in southern Greene County.
- E. Kerr reported noticing the Rappahannock News has had some very good articles on conservation: one on the Hazel River and one on the use of funds from the Soil and Water Conservation District.
- A. Sappington reported the VASWCD Urban Committee is meeting this Thursday, and will be discussing urban legislative issues.

8) STAFF REPORT

- R. Jacobs announced that he passed his Professional Engineering Exam, he is now licensed. The LID design competition for engineer and landscape architect technically closed registration last Friday. All design materials are to be submitted by the end of February, 2012. In April there will be a presentation by the winners at the Environment Virginia Conference.
The Town of Culpeper has already sent two site plans to be reviewed.
- S. DeNicola – District Scholarships and Conservation Forestry Camp applications are now on the District website. CSWCD will be giving out a total of \$3000.00 in scholarships. CSWCD is now in the process of redesigning the website. Any suggestions please forward to Stephanie. The Habitat Day Open House at Eastern View High School went well. The Envirothon team sold sandwiches, etc. and made money for their team.
There was training at Graves Mountain Lodge for Area II Envirothon teams on January 28th. The attendance was around 200. Local competition will be on March 21, at Lenn Park in Culpeper.
- S. Yager passed on a thank you from a producer for the help on fencing project and stated his calves prior to the fencing project averaged 414 lbs. and after fencing averaged 540 lbs. He produced more with less land. There was a total management change.
- D. Massie – written report only.
- E. Blumenstein – written report only.

- G. Wichelns reported approximately 50 Madison Farm Bureau producer members attended the District outreach dinner on January 19 and they were very attentive. B. Jarvis reported on the Resource Management Process. District staff talked about the various aspects of conservation programs and planning. Dana and Nancy with NRCS were also there and discussed the federal programs.
- CSWCD resubmitted the Upper York TMDL Implementation Grant proposal.

9) AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

R. Rexrode reported additional budget reductions from USDA are resulting in NRCS closing 2 soil survey offices in Richmond and Roanoke. Details are few about what will happen to the employees in the offices that are being closed.

The first signup period for farm field programs ended on February 3rd, 2012. There were 37 applications for funding: 8 EQIP, 19 Chesapeake Bay Program, 2 Wildlife Applications, and 8 with Conservation Security Program. NRCS has until February 29th to rank applications, and will begin contract development on successful applicants in early March.

Rex reported that the report from the state office in Richmond is that our Wetland Reserve Program permanent easement site in Madison County for W. J. Davis should close by April 30th. Restoration on the site will begin in early summer.

DCR

D. Cross reported all districts now have the ability and are encouraged to enter voluntary BMP projects in the tracking program. Requests for the supplemental allocation of \$12.2 million are expected to be awarded this week. Total requests were less than \$12.2 million so it is likely all requests will be granted. There is much discussion occurring at DCR regarding possible changes in cost-share and technical assistance funding methodologies. This goes well beyond the change in the mechanics of servicing quarterly disbursement requests. The "Special Ag. BMP T/A" funding will no longer exist as we have known it in the past. This was \$2M that was originally made available for 2 years, but has been reduced – it lasted 6 years. This is where the Governor recommended the cut by \$1,046,000. This does not mean there will not be additional Technical Assistance funds in some other form, but they will not be called "Special Ag. BMP T/A". Discussion followed.

- If not already completed SWCDs are asked to continue with their efforts to "clean up" historical data in the tracking program and report back to CDC the status of your efforts and when the task is completed.
- New Director Orientation will be conducted Phase I on Feb 22 at the Culpeper Service Center. Phase 2 will be conducted on March 26th in Charlottesville, 9 – 3:30.
- Conservation Planning Certification – effective October 1, 2011 NRCS implemented a "new" Conservation Planner Certification process. Anyone who was Level I or Level II in the old system was to be grandfathered in. Anyone who had not completed the requirements for Level I in the old system before 10/1/11 must meet the new requirements to become certified. Staff has been provided with new guidelines. Chad Wentz, NRCS, has to approve the certification.
- District strategic plans need to be reviewed at a board meeting at least once a year. Check the date on your plan and if appropriate begin to make plans to develop a new strategic plan.
- March 15 SWCD Dam Owners Workgroup Meeting in Charlottesville
- March 28 VASWCD Board Meeting, Richmond
- March 29 VA Soil and Water Conservation Board Meeting, Richmond
- April 10-12 Environment Virginia Symposium, Lexington
- April 18 Area II Envirothon, Montpelier
- May 8 Area II Spring Meeting

Legislative updates are being sent out via the "all-district" email from VASWCD. Discussion followed on the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board meetings. L. Campbell suggested writing a letter to

set a calendar date for all of their meetings. No set date for meetings has caused inconvenience for everyone.

10) PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD – None.

11) PLAN FOR FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in CULPEPER) AND THE MARCH BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012 IN ORANGE COUNTY AT THE ORANGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Committees will meet on Tuesday, February 21st, 2012, at the Culpeper County USDA Service Center. Education 8:00, Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00, and Legislative 11:00.

12) ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the February, 2012 Board meeting at 11:15 by R. Brame.

Respectfully Submitted,



JoAnn Neal
Administrative Secretary

Robert Brame



Director _____
Date Approved 3-6-2012 _____