

MINUTES

CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Department of Public Works
Orange, Virginia
March 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Brame at 9:35 AM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

ORANGE COUNTY

APR 05 2012

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
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Evelyn Kerr, Rappahannock County
Monira Rifaat, Rappahannock County
Warren Lee, Orange County Associate Director

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Richard McNear, Rappahannock County Associate Director
John Genho, Rappahannock County Associate Director
Steve Morris, Greene County Associate Director
Andrew Campbell, Culpeper County
Jocelyn P. Lampert, Culpeper County, Director At-Large

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rex Rexrode, NRCS Soil Conservationist
D. Cross, DCR, Conservation District Coordinator
Ed Furlow, Department of Forestry
Buck Kline, Virginia Department of Forestry

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

R. Brame welcomed everyone to Orange County. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, G. Wichelns introduced two handouts: 1) Addendum to the Technical Committee Report – Practices to be Approved, Cancellations, and Payments and 2) DCR Monthly Report.

2) DRAFT MINUTES

R. Brame called for a motion to approve the February 7, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes. B. Kane requested a correction to the Legislative Committee Report page 4, paragraph 2 the last line needs to be changed from *passing some bills the Friday before* to *amending the Governor's Budget*. A. Sappington moved for approval of the amended Minutes. T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (Sappington, O'Halloran, unanimous)

3) AGENDA APPROVAL

R. Brame called for Agenda approval. R. Bradford requested DCR Grant Agreement for Supplemental BMP funds be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda under 5.1 for discussion. G. Wichelns requested the Chesapeake Bay Foundation request be placed on the Agenda under 5.2. R. Rexrode requested NRCS Plans be moved from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda under 5.3. R. Bradford moved to approve the Agenda as amended. B. Kane seconded the motion. (Bradford, 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
TECHNICAL

*Added at March 6, 2012 Board Meeting

**Tentative due to funding

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 | Brooke Farms | Orange | \$ 15,117.30 | \$ 0.00 |
| SL6 | Charles Woolfrey | Orange | \$ 5,714.25 | \$ 0.00 |
| LE1T | Peggy Peterson** | Madison | \$ 13,931.50 | \$ 614.63 |
| SL6T | Chris Parrish | Rappahannock | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ 100.00 |
| LE2T | Roy Boldridge | Culpeper | \$ 8,676.10 | \$ 2,169.03 |

2. There was an increase on a current project. The increase was for Erik Weaver and includes two watering systems. The additional cost share is for \$4,172.00.
3. 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 | Armon Webb | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Herman Racer | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Herman Racer, Jr. | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Walker Jenkins | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Lewis Lacy, Jr. | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB3 | Lewis Lacy, Jr. | Madison | \$3,000.00 |
| RB1 | Greenscapes Nursery & Garden Shopp, Inc. * | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Greenscapes Nursery & Garden Shopp, Inc. * | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Lewis F. Lacey, Jr. * | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Lewis F. Lacey, Jr.* | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Scott Walters * | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Annie Tull* | Madison | \$150.00 |

4. 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 | William Crossman | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Bill Lacey | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Ralph Chastain | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Armon Webb | Madison | \$150.00 |

| | | | |
|-----|---------------------|---------|----------|
| RB1 | C.P. McDowell | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Linda Bussey* | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Herman Racer* | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Herman Racer, Jr. * | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Annie Tull* | Madison | \$150.00 |
| RB1 | Waller T. Jenkinns* | Madison | \$150.00 |

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

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Participant</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| RB1 | Mona Brown* | Rappahannock | \$150.00 |
| RB3 | Mona Brown* | Rappahannock | \$3,000.00 |

6. The following BMP applicant has been approved by the Technical Committee for funding correction:

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Participant</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Tax Credit</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| LE2T | Charles Landgraf* | Madison | \$8,324.50 | \$2,061.13 |
| LE1T | Charles Landgraf* | Madison | \$68,541.45 | \$3,023.89 |

7. The following BMP applicant has been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Participant</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Tax Credit</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| LE2T | Charles Landgraf* | Madison | \$8,324.50 | \$2,061.13 |
| LE1T | Charles Landgraf* | Madison | \$52,077.87 | \$2,774.40 |

8. The following BMP applicants have cancelled their projects:

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Participant</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Tax Credit</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| SL8H | Jim Gibson* | Orange | \$5,000.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| SL8H | Gill Roberts* | Orange | \$2,500.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| LE-1T | Penn Family Trust* | Madison | \$23,487.20 | \$ 1,036.20 |
| LE-1T | Tim Falls* | Rappahannock | \$15,830.15 | \$ 1,163.98 |
| LE-1T | Tim Falls* | Rappahannock | \$12,201.24 | \$ 897.15 |

9. The following CREP applicant has been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Participant</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Tax Credit</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| CP-22 | Karen Hegyi* | Orange | \$ 100.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| CP-29 | Karen Hegyi* | Orange | \$ 35.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| SL-6 | Karen Hegyi* | Orange | \$ 766.75 | \$ 0.00 |
| CRFR-3 | Karen Hegyi* | Orange | \$ 198.75 | \$ 0.00 |

10. The following Robinson River TMDL Residential applicant has been cancelled:

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Participant</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| RB-3 | Lewis F. Lacey, Jr.* | Madison | \$3,000.00 |

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

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Participant</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| RB-1 | Mona Brown* | Rappahannock | \$150.00 |
| RB-3 | Mona Brown* | Rappahannock | \$800.00 |

12. The following Upper Hazel River TMDL Residential applicant has been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Participant</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| RB-1 | Dan Green* | Rappahannock | \$150.00 |
| RB-3 | Dan Green* | Rappahannock | \$3,000.00 |

13. The following Quail applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Participant</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| WL-1 | Douglas Ward* | Rappahannock | \$757.50 |
| WL-3 | Larry Beatty* | Madison | \$1,855.00 |

14. The following Contractual BMP applicant has been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

| <u>Practice</u> | <u>Participant</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| NM-1 | Beauregard Farms LP* | Culpeper | \$11,200.00 |

15. District staff is working on having two of the dams limed as soon as weather is permitting, along with spraying one of the Madison dams for broadleaf control. Dam inspections are scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th at 9 a.m.

16. The District will commence an outreach effort officially announcing the supplemental agricultural BMP funds once confirmation of an allocation is received.

OPERATIONS
LEGISLATIVE

TREASURER'S REPORT

5.1) DCR GRANT AGREEMENT

R. Bradford reported the DCR Nonpoint Source Implementation Assistance Program-State Funds Only Grant Agreement has changed the formula for Technical Assistance payments. The information is on page 6. The formula will consist of 4% up front when the agreement is signed; an additional 1% when 50% of cost-share funds have been contracted; an additional 1% when 75% of the cost-share funds have been contracted; and the final 2% when 100% of cost-share funds have been contracted.

R. Bradford is concerned with the possible forfeiture of the final 2% if we do not achieve 100% contracted. Discussion followed on approval, completion, cancellation and what the definition is of contracted.

R. Bradford reported this is extra funding on top of our normal allocation. M. Rifaat inquired about the process to come up with the exact figure for cost-share money requested. R. Bradford clarified that the committee had considered the impact of activity promoting the continuing conservation practices (maintenance) in the manual and added this as cost-share at a \$1 linear stream foot, and \$50 per acre of grass buffer or \$100 per acre forest buffer and noted this could add up very quickly.

D. Cross reported the cost-share allocation process that was used in the past will no longer be the process used after July 1, 2012. There is a great deal of on-going discussion about districts, instead of receiving an allocation, will be asked to submit a request of how much they think they spent. Your allocation will be based on what you request. This is not final. DCR wants to reward those districts that are performing and wants districts to be in a position to ask for what it is they can use. There will not be shifting of funds between districts; you will have to ask DCR for more money. There are still a lot of unanswered questions. Discussion continued.

B. Jarvis stated a performance based approach to conservation planning is what this Board has always asked for. What concerns B. Jarvis is that the performance bases is solely driven on Board approval of practices so when you go to 10 producers; 3 or 4 may not participate even though you have that person on the ground doing that work and you are not going to get credit for that individual. The other part that concerns B. Jarvis is that it totally removes education and public relations as an expenditure as part of the technical

assistance. Discussion followed.

R. Bradford recommended to sign the agreement and also send along a letter with our concerns. G. Wichelns stated it is complicated because we do not know the outcome of any other form of technical assistance to the district. The House did not support the continuance of the Special Technical Assistance funds; the Senate did. Discussion followed. M. Rifaat seconded the motion. (Bradford, Rifaat, passed - B. Kane voted no). B. Kane questioned two aspects of the draft grant agreement; does the district maintain a list of producers that are generating the greatest NPS impact and focus recruitment on them, and where in the document do the taxpayers who fund the program get acknowledgement or does it all get funneled to DCR? The District Manager identified that the district does not actually maintain a list although our outreach efforts are focused on high impact areas and watersheds although there are some producers that are not interested in participating.

D. Cross stated the Operating Funds looks secured. CBLEI Technical Assistance money (8%) is currently being paid out when completed.

March 29th, 2012 the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board will meet to discuss their financial policy to soil and water districts for the coming year. D. cross stated there will be discussion about technical assistance and hopefully we will know more on the state budget. The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Districts is having their meeting on March 28th, 2012 and that might be an opportunity to express your concerns to the VASWCD Board as well.

5.2) CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION PARTICIPATION PROPOSAL

G. Wichelns reported CSWCD has been invited by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the World Resource Institute to participate in a 3 year grant project. The Culpeper District would be involved in year two of the grant. It is for the further development of an on-farm nutrient assessment tool, which is Chesapeake Bay TMDL model based. It would be a different approach to evaluating whether a farm was compliant with the Bay TMDL or whether they had met any base lines for nutrient trading as established by Virginia. It would be a modeling based base line or compliance test rather than a suite of practices as we tend to know it. They are looking at trying to identify 50 farms in the Culpeper District that would be willing to do this evaluation. They have asked for our support for outreach to identify the farms, invite the farms and to do follow up phone calls. This would be without pay. They would include that as match in the grant. There is a pilot similar this this in Howard County, Maryland. It is a Howard County Conservation District project. It is not a CBF or WRI project. Maryland has a State adopted on-farm nutrient calculator. The Howard County District is ½ urban and ½ Agri. and is probably more similar to Suffolk or Virginia Beach than our District. In Maryland the Conservation District owns the information. If they go onto a farm and they do data collection and assessment the district owns that data and it is exempted from FOIA requests by State Law in Maryland. That does not seem to be the case in Virginia. The information is not exempted from FOIA in Virginia. Discussion followed on performance base approach versus a practice base approach. G. Wichelns stated the purpose of the grant project is to better inform a multi-state trading platform. Discussion followed on load allocation reduction rates and soil loss rates and how successful they have been. Discussion followed on who would do the work and would they be paid for the work? The proposal suggests it would take 5 people several months to collect the information. There will be some degree of resistance from farmers to participate. There is a trust factor that must be considered. Discussion followed on the concerns of Federal FOIA and State FOIA. Questions arose; Who will be interested in participating? Is this something CSWCD wants to get involved in? A. Sappington moved to refer the grant to the Operations Committee for further discussion. M. Rifaat seconded the motion. (Sappington, Rifaat, unanimous)

5.3) NRCS PLANS

NRCS PLANS – Chris Parrish – Rappahannock - 2 plans- 2 1/2 acres CREP, 219 acres in hay/pasture land.

Lewis A. Lamb & Sons, Madison – 66.8 acres cropland

M. Rifaat moved to accept the NRCS plans. A. Sappington seconded the motion. (Rifaat, Sappington, unanimous).

6) INFORMATIONAL/EDUCATIONAL SESSION: Forest 2 Facets Project – linking urban water consumers to rural watershed strategies – Buck Kline – Virginia Department of Forestry

7) DIRECTORS REPORTS

- B. Kane reported he will be sending out an email shortly describing a scholarship at the University of Virginia pertaining to our geographic area that he and his wife are involved with and wanted to make us aware of it because it is not being utilized.
- W. Lee reported Lake of the Woods (LOW) has a large lake and a small lake. This past summer they had some major water quality issues - algae and fish kills. The Williamsburg Environmental Group is in the process of doing an evaluation on the 70 acres of watershed. Once the Nutrient Management Plan is complete they may come to the District and ask us to review the plan. DEQ will be coming to LOW next Tuesday and Thursday to do a Backyard Conservation Effort to help minimize the runoff.
- B. Jarvis reported last month they did a presentation of the New and Beginning Farmers Program with an information session in Warrenton. There were 30 in attendance; 10 actually signed up for the course. B Jarvis and R. Shoemaker prepared a proposal for the American Forage of Grassland Council to host a national tour with the Forage Council in Virginia primarily in this part of the state. They have accepted the proposal to host the national meeting May 20th- 24th, 2013 at Graves Mountain Lodge.
- L. Graves reported Heritage Day will be on April 7th, 2012 at Graves Mountain Lodge.

8) CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS

Motion was made to go into Closed Meeting at 11:00 A.M. “I move that we go into Closed Meeting as provided for in the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3771. (A)(1) to discuss personnel matters. Invitation was extended to Associate Directors, and the District Manager to attend the Closed Meeting. R. Runkle moved to go into closed session. A. Sappington seconded the motion. (Runkle, Sappington, unanimous)

Motion was made to reconvene into open meeting at 11:20 A.M. “Pursuant to the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-.712. (D), “I move to certify that to the best of the Board’s knowledge only matters lawfully exempted and as identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard or discussed by this Board during the Closed Meeting. R. Runkle moved to open the meeting. J. Byrne seconded the motion. (Runkle, Byrne, unanimous)

M. Rifaat moved to accept the Personnel Committee Report. T O’Halloran seconded. (Rifaat, O’Halloran, unanimous)

9) STAFF REPORT

- S. DeNicola – the Educational Committee has decided to start a Face Book page, if you are interested in staying updated, Stephanie can show you how to start a minimal one. The local Envirothon is March 21st, at Lenn Park in Culpeper. The redesign for the website is live, if you have any suggestions please contact Stephanie. B. Kane suggested flashing lights on anything new that is on the website.
- R. Jacobs – written report only.
- S. Yager – written report only.
- D. Massie – written report only.
- E. Blumenstein – written report only.

10) AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

R. Rexrode reported an update on the Farm Bill Programs: 19 applications for the Chesapeake Bay Program with pre-approvals of over 10 applications; 8 EQIP applications with pre-approvals of 6 applications; 8 applications with the Conservation Security Program – we will be contacting applicants

to conduct interviews this month for the program. FSA has announced a new CRP sign-up that is the regular CRP. Sign-up is from March 12 to April 6th.

VDGIF QUAIL PROGRAM

D. Wright reported on several quail success stories, one in Lee County. There is a large Nature Conservancy property in the area that they have been doing a lot of native warm season grass conversions. There are also a lot of land owners who have been doing this on their own and other programs and there is a large wildlife management area in Tennessee, right across the border. Apparently the combination of those three things going on at the same time have provided habitat for quail. Another project in Middlesex County - 7 acres of field borders around crop fields and did cut back borders and used EQIP to do this. In the first year after doing this the landowner had a covey of quail. The second year he had 3 covey's of quail. His property is in an area where there are relatively high quail population around it. He improved the habitat and the quail came.

DCR

D. Cross reported on the changes to cost-share and the technical assistance funding methodologies. Just a reminder all CBLEI funded practices are to be completed and paid out before June 30, 2012.

- New Director Orientation - Phase 2 will be conducted on March 26th in Charlottesville, 9 – 3:30.
- Electronic Deposit Transfer – Three swcd's are piloting the electronic deposit system announced at the annual meeting this last December.
- 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.
- Legislative Updates – provided weekly electronic updates to districts from VASWCD.
- 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

Miscellaneous – per operational grant with DCR

- Conduct timely employee evaluations
- Review personnel policy
- Prepare FY 13 budget and annual plan of work
- Prepare an annual report
- Maintain employee position descriptions and performance expectations

11) PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD – None.

12) PLAN FOR FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in ORANGE) AND THE APRIL BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012 IN RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY AT THE

Committees will meet on Tuesday, March 20th, 2012, at the Orange County USDA Service Center. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, and Technical 10:00. Legislative conference call if necessary. Email to inform everyone. Education 8:00 a.m. in Madison at the War Memorial Building on March 28th, 2012.

13) ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the March, 2012 Board meeting at 12:25 by R. Brame.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Brame



JoAnn Neal
Administrative Secretary

Director _____
Date Approved _____