

MINUTES

CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Washington Volunteer Fire Department
Rappahannock, Virginia
December 3, 2013

ORANGE COUNTY

JAN 10 2014

ADMINISTRATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Brame at 9:41 AM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Robert Brame, Greene County
Robert Bradford, Orange 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
Monira Rifaat, Rappahannock County
Evelyn Kerr, Rappahannock County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
Laura Campbell, Culpeper County Associate Director

DIRECTORS ABSENT: John Genho, Rappahannock County Associate Director
Dick McNear, Rappahannock County Associate Director
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Andrew Campbell, Culpeper County
Steve Morris, Greene County Associate Director
Warren Lee, Orange 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: Debbie Cross, DCR, CDC
Rex Rexrode, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Laura Grape, District Administrator, Northern Virginia SWCD
Wayne Webb, Director, Lord Fairfax SWCD

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

R. Brame welcomed everyone to Rappahannock County. Following a moment of silence, R. Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were four handouts: Technical Committee Report Addendum, Draft Letter to David Johnson, Director, DCR regarding District requests for needed additional BMP funds, 2014 Legislative Agenda topic by John Marshall SWCD, and D. Cross, DCR, CDC Monthly Report. R. Brame introduced Laura Grape, District Administrator, Northern Virginia SWCD and guest speaker Wayne Webb, Director, Lord Fairfax SWCD.

2) **DRAFT MINUTES**

R. Brame called for approval of the substance of the November 5th, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes and called for any substantive corrections or additions. B. Kane requested on page 6 in the Directors Report to change the wording from “unusual” to “poor policy” and to clarify that he left the meeting at 10:35. The Minutes were approved as corrected. (A. Sappington, M. Rifaat, unanimous)

3) AGENDA APPROVAL

R. Brame called for Agenda approval. R. Bradford requested the Technical Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed as 5.1. M. Rifaat requested the Legislative Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.2 and R. Brame requested to add 5.3 to the Agenda for discussion of grant signatures by the Operations Committee, in lieu of the Board. M. Rifaat moved to approve the Agenda. R. Runkle seconded the motion. (Rifaat, Runkle, unanimous)

4) CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda approved as modified.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION
OPERATIONS

TREASURER’S REPORT

**5.1) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA –
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

1) The following 2014 Chesapeake Bay VACS BMP applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Approved C/S Amount</u>
SL8H	Payne Hay and Straw	Culpeper	\$ 1,500.00
SL-6T	Erwin Opitz	Rappahannock	\$ 9,801.75
SL-6T	Erwin Opitz	Rappahannock	\$ 15,309.75
SL-6	Keith Farrish	Culpeper	\$ 22,540.50
SL-6	Charles Horn	Madison	\$ 26,790.00
SL-6	Cedar Ridge Farm	Madison	\$ 1,920.00
SL-6	Sandra Fowler	Madison	\$ 12,653.50
SL-6	Croftburn Angus LLC	Culpeper	\$ 35,097.00
SL-6	Croftburn Angus LLC	Culpeper	\$ 12,329.50
SL-6	Croftburn Angus LLC	Culpeper	\$ 22,897.00
SL-6B	Croftburn Angus LLC	Culpeper	Tax Credit Only \$1,180.69

2) The Technical Committee recommends for Board approval that the status of the following practices become “pending – SL-6 – lack of funding” for the 100% reimbursement guaranteed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (cost share paid on estimated costs or actual costs, whichever is less, not to exceed amount approved). The Technical committee has reviewed these practices and finds them eligible for the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>C/S Amount</u>
SL-6	Curtis Gill*	Orange	\$ 21,795.00
SL-6	Herndon*	Orange	\$ 39,775.00
SL-6	Baughner*	Greene	\$ 56,940.00
SL-6	Eddins*	Greene	\$ 27,325.00
SL-6	James Byrne*	Madison	\$ 2,560.00
SL-6	Glenmary Farm LLC*	Orange	\$ 26,000.00
SL-6	Meyers*	Greene	\$ 26,395.00
SL-6	Phillip Strange*	Orange	\$ 106,240.00
SL-6	Albert Lohman*	Orange	\$ 41,510.00
SL-6	Edward Burke*	Madison	\$ 7,313.25
SL-6	George Yancey*	Orange	\$ 36,158.00
SL-6	Tony Ferone*	Orange	\$ 20,802.00
SL-6	Carlton Atkins*	Orange	\$ 7,665.00
SL-6	Wolf Trap Farm LLC*	Orange	\$ 76,555.00

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

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Tax Credit</u>
SL-6	2014 VACS	Beauregard Farm, Inc.	Culpeper	\$ 26,226.46	\$ 0.00
SL-9	2014 VACS	Beauregard Farm, Inc.	Culpeper	\$ 5,908.38	\$ 1,477.09
SL-6	2014 VACS	Beauregard Farm, Inc.	Culpeper	\$ 35,186.75	\$ 0.00
SL-6B	Tax Credit	Phyllis Poore	Rappahannock	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,454.52
SL-6	2014 VACS	Old Ford Farm, Von Robb	Madison	\$ 19,965.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6	2013 VACS	Merlyn Koontz	Orange	\$ 27,340.00	\$ 0.00
SI-6	2013 VACS	Retreat Farm and Produce	Orange	\$ 59,540.00	\$ 0.00

4) The following Upper York 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>
RB-1	Mary Freeman	Orange	\$ 142.50
RB-1	Andy Hromyak*	Orange	\$ 150.00

5) The following Upper York River TMDL Residential participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-1	Gary Hale*	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-1	Teresa Harris*	Orange	\$ 150.00

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>
RB-1	Andrew Councill	Rappahannock	\$ 150.00
RB-1	Ralph Butler	Culpeper	\$ 150.00

RB-1	Bessie Grigsby	Rappahannock	\$ 150.00
RB-1	Wayne Weller	Rappahannock	\$ 3,000.00
RB-3	Marguerite Tuthill*	Rappahannock	\$ 3,000.00
RB-3	Kathleen Anklowitz*	Culpeper	\$ 3,000.00
RB-1	Celeste Webb*	Rappahannock	\$ 150.00
RB-1	William Freitag*	Rappahannock	\$ 150.00

- 7) 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>
RB-3	Wendy Clark	Rappahannock	\$ 1,250.00
RB-4	Jennifer Johnson	Rappahannock	\$ 3,475.00
RB-1	Susan Benner*	Rappahannock	\$ 142.50

- 8) Greg Wichelns reported on progress toward recertification of watershed dams in Madison County. Reportedly there is a backlog of work in Richmond and he is working to prevent slowdown of our projects.
- 9) Robert Ensore and Dana York, contractors who will work with the District to train staff for implementation of the on farm nutrient trading calculator – CBF grant attended the meeting and discussed details of the training and what will be expected. The District Manager will work with Bob to complete the Draft Agreement and the Committee will report to the Board at the December meeting.
- 10) The Committee discussed issues related to project backups due to contractor availability. The Committee recommended updating the Contractor's List that staff provides to producers who need to hire contractors for their projects. District Staff will work on this over the next few weeks and will advertise for additional contractors to be added.
- R. Bradford requested for approval to have authorization for payment any completed and signed off on practices for technical committee.
- R. Bradford stated there will be a contract for the next Board Meeting in January on the implementation of the on farm nutrient trading grant.
- The Technical Committee has started the pending basket for SL-6's approved with the status "pending – SL-6 – lack of funding" for the 100% reimbursement with a ranking. The District will send out a letter to each producer stating their status and they will go through a ranking process.
- The Technical Committee has recommended a letter to send to Mr. David Johnson and the committee has asked to approve the letter with minor corrections. L. Graves recommended to put in the dollar figure for future funding for this past month.

On the Committee recommendation, the report was approved. B. Kane abstained from the vote.

5.2) FUTURE OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

M. Rifaat presented the Legislative Committee Report for November 19, 2013. Item #2; the discussion of the role of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board in possibly adopting new policy for funding of districts operations and the interaction of the budget template process with that role. Core funding for the Districts - the Districts are looking for the Soil and Water Board to take some action. The Districts do not know if there is going to be additional operations funding or how it would be distributed. It may be necessary to change the funding formula. Any director going to the Annual Meeting is urged to be informed about options.

Last year when the vote was taken at the VASWCD Business Meeting to support the move from DCR to DEQ, there were some conditions outlined at that time. The following topic will be discussed at the Area II meeting first. John Marshall SWCD is concerned that the Association has not spoken well to the conditions while speaking in support of an agency move. If a resolution supporting a DCR-DEQ agency move surfaces at the 2013 Annual Meeting, it must meet all of the JMSWCD expanded qualifications. A. Sappington stated that all of the points should be reaffirmed on last years' conditions

and most of this should be recommended in a policy at the annual meeting. This expanded conditions were approved by the JMSWCD Board on November 13, 2014.

The Uranium Mining issue is not as important an issue this year; the Governor Elect has declared that he is opposed to any uranium mining in Virginia, and it became quite apparent to those people lobbying to remove the ban that any action to remove the ban must go to the General Assembly and cannot be done solely by our Governor.

The other issue that may come up that directors should be aware of is voting at the Annual Meeting. Each director currently has one vote at the annual meeting. There are some districts that want to make the vote per District not per director. There is a concern. When we were elected by our constituents we were elected to represent them. This may come up at the meeting. Discussion followed.

R. Brame called for an Ad Hoc Committee meeting between the Legislative and Operations Committee and authorize them to formulate a position with respect to the issues before the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board the next day. M. Rifaat moved to adopt the motion. R. Runkle seconded the motion. Motion passed.

5.3) **AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN GRANTS**

A. Sappington motioned to authorize the District Manager in consultation with the Chairman of the Board to execute signing of the grants before the end of the year. R. Bradford seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6) **DIRECTORS REPORTS**

- B. Jarvis reported on a Pesticide Recertification class, 12-4 p.m. at Graves Mountain Lodge on December 16, 2013.
 - E. Kerr reported on an article about the five most interesting soils in Fairfax County. Email to Educational Committee.
 - J. Byrne reported that when districts were formed they were being led locally by elected local people. Districts are now being managed by Richmond. Ed Scott, Laura Campbell and J. Byrne met to discuss Districts. Mr. Scott wants Districts to come up with a plan. Discussion followed.
- B. Kane stated that at the Reva Fire House meeting both Senator Hanger and Delegate Scott seemed in favor of the move to DEQ. M. Rifaat stated Senator Hanger supports the move to DEQ, but she was not so sure Delegate Scott does.

7) **STAFF REPORTS**

- Stephanie reported a successful Environthon training on Saturday November 11, at Graves Mountain Lodge. Over 130 people were in attendance and there will be another training on January 25th at Graves Mountain Lodge focusing on Forestry and Wildlife. On November 5th, there was a professional development session at Emerald Hill Elementary School for 55 staff members.
 - Evan reported on attending North Carolina State University for a Stream Restoration and Design course.
 - Richard reported that last week DEQ extended the submission deadline for localities for Stormwater Management Programs until January 15, 2014.
 - Greg reported it was mentioned at the District Technical Committee some issues related to project slowdowns due to contractor availability. In response to that we are updating our Contractor's List; that includes notification in newspapers for two weeks for additional contractors to be added to list. Staff has been working over the last couple of months with the five local Farm Bureau offices to send a letter from each of five Farm Bureau Presidents to all current producers outlining current state offerings for 100% Stream Fencing and Exclusion.
- Orange County is one of the counties we are working with to develop their stormwater program. The County Planner did ask that CSWCD accompany him to the last Board of Supervisors for technical backup. Orange County is adopting a revised version of the Culpeper Stormwater Ordinance and Manual. Greg recognized Stephanie for taking it upon herself to help train not only

kids but teachers for the Environthon including some from outside Area II. There are a lot of people out there that need the training and it is appreciated by all. The level of interest the kids have is great and this is a very good thing. He reported on many positive comments he recently received regarding Stephanie's support of the training.

8) AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

Rex Rexrode reported NRCS continues to operate under the continuing resolution until mid-January of 2014. They do not have a Farm Bill and they do not have a budget. NRCS is continuing to take sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). We have had the cut-off date for the forestry applications. Although we do not have funds we are beginning to rank and hope to have more information by the end of December. Rex thanked the Board for giving the Service Award to John Jefferies, NRCS civil engineering technician with over 40 years with the local office. He was very appreciative and deeply touched that he received the award. Greg stated that the original recommendation came from Spencer.

DCR

D. Cross handed out a new brochures for SL-6 Exclusion. She will try to get more for us. Quarterly reports are due Wednesday January 15th; to include the "official 2014 electronic Attachment E" as well as QuickBooks cash balances sheet and P & L for the period.

D. Cross reported Districts are still encouraged to work with their local NRCS office regarding the level of cooperation and technical assistance that may be available. DCR is progressing toward the hiring of an engineer. They are in the process of interviewing for an engineer through VA Tech to provide engineering assistance and to review current NRCS standards and specs.

D. Cross reminded December 10th and Jan 10th are the next VECI deadlines. If 2013 VACS or Supplemental funds are available from "under budget" practices that were paid less than the original estimate, please use those funds to reach 75% for any 2013 practices that are in need of additional funds.

D. Cross reported Resource Management Plans have been delayed, an unspecified date in 2014, until such time as adequate staff can be hired and a reliable and accurate web based system can be created. Training for district staff, directors and members of TRC's will be provided in the spring of 2014.

D. Cross reported the VASWCD Board of Directors Meeting, Tazewell Room, Sunday, December 8, 9:30-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m. The Area II Fall meeting will be held in the Tazewell Rom, Conference Level, Monday, December 9th 4:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board will meet jointly with the VASWCD on Wednesday, December 11th, 9:00 to 1:00 p.m. Tazewell Room, Conference Level.

Important Dates:

Dec. 8-10	VASWCD Annual Meeting at Kingsmill, Williamsburg, VA. Register by November 14 th .
Dec. 11	Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board meets jointly with the VASWCD.
Dec. 19	VACS TAC Meeting – Charlottesville
Dec. 19	Dam Owners Quarterly Meeting – DOF Charlottesville
Jan. 10	Potomac Watershed Roundtable Meeting, John Marshall SWCD Host.
Jan. 13	VASWCD Legislative Day, Richmond

9) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – None.

10) **PLAN FOR DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in Orange at the Orange USDA Service Center).**

Committees will meet on Monday, December 16th, 2013, Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00, and Legislative 10:30 a.m. at the Orange USDA Service Center. The Education Committee meeting will be meeting on Monday, December 16, 2013 at Graves Mountain Lodge at 12:00.

BOARD MEETING IN January TO BE HELD TUESDAY, January 7th, 2014 IN CULPEPER COUNTY AT THE REVA VOLUNTEER FIRE HALL.

11) **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made to adjourn the December 2013 Board meeting at 12:15 by B Jarvis.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Brame, Chairman



JoAnn Neal
Administrative Secretary

Director _____
Date Approved ____ January 7th, 2014 ____

