MINUTES

CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING
Department of Public Works
Orange, Virginia
December 1, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Graves at 9:45 A.M.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Lynn Graves, Madison County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Monira Rifaat, Rappahannock County
Evelyn Kerr, Rappahannock County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
Steve Hill, Madison County, Associate Director
Robert Brame, Greene County
Alyson Sappington, Orange County

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Dick McNear, Rappahannock County Associate Director
Jim Byrne, Madison County Associate Director,
Warren Lee, Orange County Associate Director
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Andrew Campbell, Culpeper County
Steve Morris, Greene County Director, At Large
Bob Kane, Madison County
Laura Campbell, Culpeper County Associate Director
Brad Jarvis, Madison County, Virginia Cooperative Extension

***STAFF PRESENT*:** Greg Wichelns, District Manager
JoAnn Neal, Administrative Secretary
W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist
Richard Jacobs, Conservation Specialist
David Massie, Conservation Specialist
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist
Stephanie DeNicola, Information Specialist

***OTHERS PRESENT*:** Rex Rexrode, NRCS District Conservationist
Philip C. Morris, Greene Resident, Director Elect

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

L. Graves welcomed everyone to Orange County. Following a moment of silence, Richard Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were six handouts: Technical Committee Report Addendum, Resource Management Plans (RMP) for approval, Education Committee Report, NRCS Monthly Report, DCR Conservation District Coordinator Monthly Report and the 2016 Winter Forage Conference Registration Form.

L. Graves introduced the new Directors Elect: Greene County - Philip C. Morris and Madison County - Stephen R. Hill. He thanked both Evelyn Kerr-Rappahannock and Alyson Sappington-Orange for all the work that they had contributed during their tenure on the Board.

2) DRAFT MINUTES

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of the November 3rd, 2015 Draft Board Meeting Minutes and called for any substantive corrections or additions. M. Rifaat moved to approve those Minutes as presented. A. Sappington seconded the motion. (Rifaat, Sappington, unanimous)

3) AGENDA APPROVAL

L. Graves called for Agenda approval. R. Bradford requested Technical Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Agenda as 5.1. L. Graves requested Operations Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Agenda as 5.2. R. Rexrode requested the NRCS Conservation Plans be placed under NRCS Plans on the Consent Agenda. R. Bradford moved to approve the Agenda as amended. M. Rifaat seconded the motion. (Bradford, Rifaat, unanimous)

4) CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda approved as modified.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION

TREASURER'S REPORT
RMP PLANS
Culpeper County

Rmp 7-15-	0034	255 acres pasture and cropland
	0035	79 acres cropland
	0036	258 acres pasture, hay land, cropland
	0037	80 acres pasture
	0038	168 acres cropland
	0039	267 acres hay land and cropland
	0040	183 acres pasture hay land and cropland
	0041	72 acres cropland
	0042	98 acres cropland
	0043	393 acres pasture and hay land

NRCS PLANS - **Madison County** - **Ken Walt**- Tract – 3459 Forest Stand Imp., Wildlife Habitat Mgmt., CREP-Re-enrollment – 9.4 acs.

5) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA –

5.1) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT –

Projects in italics were added at the December 1, 2015 Board Meeting.

1) The following BMP applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding. All applications were thoroughly screened for compliance with Priority Recruitment Guidelines. All met at least two of the priority criteria.

Practice	Fund	Participant	County	Amount	Tax Credit

SL-9	2016 VACS	Retreat Farm	Orange	$ 2,950.00	$ 0.00
SL-6	2016 VACS	Monte Vista Farm	Greene	$ 21,280.00	$ 317.00
SL-6	2016 VACS	Corey Clinton	Culpeper	$ 5,550.00	$ 346.88
SL-6B	2016 VACS	Corey Clinton	Culpeper	$ 0.00	$ 721.25
SL-6	2016 CBIG	Marc Estes	Madison	$ 7,643.00	$ 0.00
SL-6	2016 CBIG	Susan McGavran	Culpeper	$ 42,493.50	$ 0.00
SL-6	2016 CBIG	Sprague Farms LLC	Orange	$ 6,001.00	$ 0.00
SL-8H	*2016 VACS*	*John Tatum*	*Madison*	*$ 2,200.00*	*$ 0.00*
SL-8B	*2016 VACS*	*Paul Heatwole*	*Culpeper*	*$ 2,506.80*	*$ 0.00*
SL-8H	*2016 VACS*	*Paul Heatwole*	*Culpeper*	*$ 2,706.20*	*$ 0.00*
SL-8B	*2016 VACS*	*Thomas Mountjoy*	*Orange*	*$ 4,186.80*	*$ 0.00*

2) The Technical Committee recommends for Board approval that the following cost estimates be approved for eligibility for the "pending – SL-6 – lack of funding practices" 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:

Practice	Participant	County	Amount
SL-6	Scott Sullivan	Greene	$ 140,834.00
SL-6	Scott Sullivan	Greene	$ 75,362.00
SL-6T	Steve Hensley	Rappahannock	$ 13,351.50
SL-6T	Steve Hensley	Rappahannock	$ 15,709.10

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

Practice	Fund	Participant	County	Amount	Tax Credit
SL-6	2015 VACS	Bruce Hegyi	Orange	$ 17,839.20	$ 0.00
SL-6	2015 VACS	Pay Comyn*	Madison	$ 13,859.00	$ 0.00
CP-21	CREP	Cherry Grove Farm Ent. Inc.	Orange	$ 167.50	$ 0.00
CRWQ-1	CREP	Cherry Grove Farm Ent. Inc.	Orange	$ 127.00	$ 0.00
SL-6	*2015 VACS*	*Poole Holdings LP***	*Culpeper*	*$ 35,311.00*	*$ 0.00*
SL-6	*2015 VACS*	*Poole Holdings LP*	*Culpeper*	*$ 48,882.40*	*$ 0.00*
SL-6	*2015 CBIG*	*George Haney****	*Greene*	*$ 81,234.42*	*$ 0.00*
LE-2T	*UHR Ag.*	*John Guevremont*	*Rappahannock*	*$ 3,300.80*	*$ 825.20*
FR-1	*2016 VACS*	*Edgewood Miller Farm*	*Orange*	*$ 17,148.83*	*$ 1,229.07*

***Increase of $256.00 for an additional 80' of fence.**
****Includes an increase of $8,146.00 for interior cross fence and a watering trough that was added during the construction phase to facilitate better rotational grazing.**
*****Includes an increase of $11,300.42 for added pipeline and fence due to terrain and wet areas. Payment will be split between two funding sources.**

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

Practice	Participant	County	Amount

RB-1	Judi Vigay	Culpeper	$ 150.00
RB-1	John Riley	Rappahannock	$ 150.00
RB-1	Charles Fortuna	Rappahannock	$ 150.00
RB-1	*Robert Ellis*	*Culpeper*	*$ 150.00*

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

Practice	Participant	County	Amount
RB-3	*Luke Demaitre*	*Rappahannock*	*$ 3,500.00*
RB-3	*John Waddell*	*Rappahannock*	*$ 3,500.00*

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

Practice	Participant	County	Amount
RB-1	Ronald Montgomery	Madison	$ 150.00
RB-1	John Quinley	Madison	$ 150.00
RB-1	Dwayne Dixon	Madison	$ 150.00

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

Practice	Participant	County	Amount
RB-1	*Jacob Garr*	*Madison*	*$ 150.00*
RB-1	*Lindsay McCarty*	*Madison*	*$ 150.00*

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

Practice	Participant	County	Amount
(2) RB-1	*Lamont Breckenridge*	*Madison*	*$ 300.00*
RB-1	*Leroy Utz*	*Madison*	*$ 150.00*
RB-1	*Travis Rosser*	*Madison*	*$ 150.00*

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

Practice	Participant	County	Amount
RB-3	Ruth Smith	Orange	$ 1,668.75
RB-1	Ann Bledsoe	Orange	$ 137.50
RB-1	*Janice Edelberg*	*Orange*	*$ 132.50*
RB-1	*Tara Edelberg*	*Orange*	*$ 132.50*
RB-1	*Nicole Lillard*	*Orange*	*$ 150.00*
RB-3	*Nicole Lillard*	*Orange*	*$ 775.00*

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

Practice	Participant	County	Amount
RB-1	*Lee Hogan*	*Orange*	*$ 150.00*
RB-3	*Judi Racey*	*Orange*	*$ 3,500.00*

11) The following Upper Hazel River TMDL Residential applicants has been canceled by the Technical Committee:

Practice	Participant	County	Amount
RB-1	*Red Oak Mountain L.L.C.*	*Rappahannock*	*$ 150.00*
RB-1	*Luke Demaitre*	*Rappahannock*	*$ 150.00*

12) The following Upper York River Residential TMDL applicant has been canceled by the Technical Committee:

Practice	Participant	County	Amount
(2) RB-1	*Thayer Drew*	*Orange*	*$ 300.00*

13) The Technical Committee Chairman approved $850 of dam maintenance funds for the repair of the metal trash rack on the primary spillway at Mountain Run #8A (Caynor Dam). The Chairman also approved $2,675 of dam maintenance funds for the removal of all woody debris around the primary spillway, the inspection of the primary spillway structure and ensuring the proper functioning of all the gates used to control the water level at Beautiful Run 2A. Currently, woody debris prevents full closure of the gate valve at the base of the riser.

14) Richard Jacobs, District Conservation Specialist III gave a brief presentation on the latest updates to the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP). VCAP is focused on providing funding to landowners who want to install conservation practices, but do not qualify for the agricultural cost share program. The program is funded through the Department of Environmental Quality and is being administered at the conservation district level. Currently, four districts are involved (Culpeper, Thomas Jefferson, Hanover-Caroline and Piedmont), with plans to include the entire Chesapeake Bay drainage in Virginia. All areas of the Culpeper SWCD are eligible. Practices are approved and funded by a steering committee which consists of one district staff person from each of the four original four districts and two members of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
R. Bradford moved to approve the Technical Committee report. A. Sappington seconded the motion. Motion passed. (Bradford, Sappington, unanimous)

5.2) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT –

M. Rifaat reported there will be a proposed amendment to the By Laws of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) to vote on at the Annual Meeting in December, 2015. The proposal specifies that any director can only occupy one position concurrently on the VASWCD Board and can only cast one vote. The information was sent out to all directors by Richard Chaffin, VASWCD President, via email and will be discussed at the Annual Meeting. M. Rifaat encouraged all directors to read the document and to be at the Annual Meeting to vote on this important issue at the Business Meeting. R. Runkle motioned to approve the Operations Committee Report. M. Rifaat seconded the motion. (Runkle, Rifaat, unanimous)

6) DIRECTORS REPORTS

- L. Graves recognized district staff for conducting a successful Awards Banquet and commented on the good attendance which included Mr. Richard Chaffin, VASWCD President. L. Graves reminded all directors to take the Oath of Office by December 31, 2015 and send a copy of the signed document to D. Cross at the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Directors should be receiving a form for this from the State of Virginia.
- R. Runkle reported the Charlottesville Daily Progress recently published an article featuring a farmer from the South River in Augusta County who had conducted a study of water quality entering into his farm and how the water leaving the farm was much better after streams were fenced. R. Runkle wanted to know if we would provide such a service to customers. A. Sappington reported that in Albemarle County, Streamwatch conducted biological testing in a stream on a farm which was not fenced off. No significant differences in results were identified above vs below the farm. A. Sappington stated it would also depend on how many animals used the water, etc. They did not know what the long-term

impact would be. G. Wichelns stated that Culpeper SWCD has done pre and post BMP monitoring for fecal bacteria in Orange County (York Watershed) and the results were mixed, but there was some improvement.

- E. Kerr thanked everyone for the kindness and help in conservation that she has received from the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District as a director. It has helped her considerably.
- R. Bradford attended yesterday's Agriculture BMP TAC meeting in Charlottesville and the main discussion focused on cover crops. There may be a new nutrient management program introduced for precision nutrient management called Tier Three.
- R. Bradford stated the conflict of interest for directors as elected officials who receive ag cost share is going to be a big issue and it will need follow thru with legislators. It is #3 on the VASWCD Legislative Agenda for the Business Meeting at the Annual Meeting in Richmond. Discussion followed. R. Bradford stated directors should not lose the opportunity to participate in the cost-share program. Their leadership and engagement is key to the success of the program. L. Graves stated at the Virginia Agri Business policy meeting a couple of weeks ago, it was decided to sit back and see what the General Assembly is going to propose and then decide on any action plan. R. Brame stated the programs that directors need to defend are the programs that generally are used by everyone; there is no advantage to being a director.
- A. Sappington expressed her appreciation of her eight years on the board representing Orange County. She said she really enjoyed her time on the board. R. Brame asked if she would consider being an Associate Director, and she said if she was asked she would. Mr. Brame then asked her to consider being an Associate Director for Orange.

7) STAFF REPORTS

- Richard reported on the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) application for Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant funding. Newspaper articles (Madison, Rappahannock, Orange) have been placed and we have had some interest in the program. Richard stated he met with A. G. Richardson Elementary School in Culpeper, Farmington Elementary School in Culpeper, Locust Grove Middle School in Locust Grove and Gordon Barber Elementary in Gordonsville, and Head Start in Gordonsville. Farmington has applied for the VCAP program. He reported meeting with four additional people and has scheduled to meet with five more people this week. He reported modifying the VCAP brochures and printed 200 copies. He has distributed 15 copies to the Town of Orange, County of Orange, Town of Culpeper and the County of Culpeper, 10 copies to the Madison Extension Office and the Madison Library.
- S. DeNicola reported she will be taking pictures of all directors and staff at our January 2016 board meeting in Rappahannock. This past year 3,500 students were instructed in the classroom. Programs are set up to restart in January. The tree seedling sale is going well. Total orders are close to 1,000 trees from the Department of Forestry. Five trees for $5.50. Variety: Tulip Poplar, Red Maple, Red Bud, Dogwood, Persimmon and Eastern White pine.
- D. Massie thanked the out-going directors for their service.
- S. Yager reported the Orange Service Center is extending an invitation to their Open House on Wednesday, December 16th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- G. Wichelns reported following up on Richard's VCAP report and Stephanie's Rain Barrel Program. Greg suggested to Stephanie that since Richard is marketing the VACP program, which is a new program, that we could consider offering a rain barrel to any successful applicant who also brings their neighbor on board. Greg is asking if the Board would endorse this proposal. There are 4 Districts and the VASWCD will manage the grant agreement. The four districts are: Thomas Jefferson, Piedmont, Hanover-Caroline and Culpeper in the Bay Watershed. R. Bradford moved to explore and develop the concept. R. Runkle seconded the motion. (Bradford, Runkle, unanimous)
- G. Wichelns reported the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council Conference meeting, January 29th, 2016 at Brandy Station, Virginia. Greg is requesting Board approval to fund registration for (2) fescue grazers from each of the 5 counties to go to the conference, selected by staff and board. They would

pay upfront then we would reimburse them for the registration. R. Bradford moved to approve the funding for registration. R. Brame amended the motion to include "any farmer, who is not a district director" for the registration. (Bradford, Brame, unanimous)

- G. Wichelns reported in advance on a pending pesticide amnesty day later in 2016 by Virginia Cooperative Extension. More information to follow.
- G. Wichelns reported on Strategic Planning - there will be a meeting at the Madison Extension Office for all Committee Chairs on December 17th, to discuss and assemble a new draft for the next 4 to 5 years. They will report it back to the Board in January or February.

8) AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

R. Rexrode reported on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program – there is a new initiative on the horizon which will impact only Greene, Madison, and Rappahannock counties. The program is called Blue Ridge Prism and targets controlling invasive species in the areas around Shenandoah National Park. Mountain Run Lake and Lake Pelham – the two steering committees for upgrading these dams met in November to discuss these projects. Officials from Schnabel Engineering presented the proposed solutions for enlarging the emergency spillways for these structures. The proposed solution is to install labyrinth weirs on both structures. Another meeting will be held with the Culpeper Town Council on Tuesday, December 8th, at 7 p.m. to present the proposed solution to the Council. Mr. O'Halloran will represent the Culpeper SWCD. The total cost of both projects is $15 million to be paid mostly by federal money from the USDA Watershed Program.

DCR

D. Cross's report was handed out at the meeting.

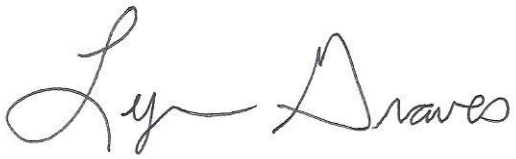
9) PLAN FOR DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in Orange at the ORANGE UDSA SERVICE CENTER.

Committees will meet on Tuesday, December 15, 2015: Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00, and RMPTRC 10:45 at the Orange USDA Service Center and Education Committee Monday, December 21, 2015 in Madison County at the VCE office at 8:30. **BOARD MEETING IN JANUARY WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015 IN RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY AT THE WASHINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

10) ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the December 2015 Board meeting at 11:15.

Respectfully Submitted, Lynn Graves, Chairman



JoAnn M. Neal
Administrative Secretary

Director_____
Date Approved _1-5-2016_____