

MINUTES
CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Washington Volunteer Fire Department
Washington, Virginia
December 2, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chair Monira Rifaat at 9:30 AM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Monira Rifaat, Rappahannock County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
James Byrne, Madison County
Lynn Graves, Madison County
John Boldridge, Culpeper County
Alyson Sappington, Orange County
Robert Brame, Greene County Director
John Genho, Rappahannock County
Brad Jarvis, Madison County, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Steve Morris, Greene County Associate Director
Jocelyn P. Lampert, Culpeper Associate Director

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Richard McNear, Rappahannock County Associate Director
Betty Shelton, Orange County Associate Director
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Cathy Kloetzli, Greene County Associate Director, VCE
Christa Lightburn, Madison County Associate Director
Warren Lee, Orange County Associate Director
Laura Campbell, Culpeper County

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Wichelns, District Manager
JoAnn Neal, Administrative Secretary
Richard Jacobs, Conservation Specialist
W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist
David Massie, Conservation Specialist
Stephanie DeNicola, Information/Communication Specialist
Evan Blumenstein, Conservation Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT: Debbie Cross, CDC, DCR
Joseph Rossetti, Department of Forestry, Warrenton
Beverly Hunter, RAPP Flow
Todd Benson, Piedmont Environmental Council

M. Rifaat introduced B. Hunter, RAPP Flow, for the Information/Educational Session: Rappahannock County Watershed Assessments.

1) CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

M. Rifaat welcomed everyone to Washington, Virginia. Following the invocation by J. Boldridge and the Pledge of Allegiance, G. Wichelns stated there was one handout: 1) Draft letter to L. Preston Bryant, Secretary of Natural Resources.

2) AGENDA APPROVAL

M. Rifaat called for Agenda approval. R. Bradford requested Technical Committee report be removed from the Consent Agenda and be placed under Additions to the Agenda as 4.1. J. Byrne requested the Operations

Committee report be removed from the Consent Agenda and be placed under Additions to the Agenda as 4.2. M. Rifaat requested Education be removed from the Consent Agenda and be placed under Additions to the Agenda as 4.3. A. Sappington requested the minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda for correction and placed under Additions to the Agenda as 4.4. J. Byrne requested to add to the Additions to Agenda - Uranium Mining. J. Boldridge moved to approve the Agenda as amended. J. Byrne seconded the motion. (Boldridge, Byrne, unanimous)

3) CONSENT AGENDA

M. Rifaat called for amended Consent Agenda approval. J. Byrne moved to approve. R. Brame seconded the motion. (Byrne, Brame, unanimous)

TREASURER’S REPORT

NRCS PLANS – Clarke Young, CREP, Orange.

4) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

J. Byrne reported last October 7, 2007 the Board passed a resolution to maintain the moratorium on uranium mining and milling in Virginia until the industry can demonstrate that any degradation to soil and water can be prevented and land restored to a productive, usable condition. Discussion followed on the Triassic Basin and groundwater for community use. Specific wording needs to be updated in the resolution and presented to the Annual Meeting in Roanoke. New working to be: CSWCD Board of Directors supports retaining the moratorium on uranium mining and milling in Virginia until the industry provides reviewable information demonstrating that uranium mining and milling have been undertaken in locations with population density, geology, and climate comparable to Virginia’s and that uranium mining, milling and waste disposal operations in those locations were undertaken in such a manner as to safeguard the environment, natural and historic resources, agricultural lands, and the health and well-being of citizens of those communities. T. Benson spoke on the issue of rainfall, safe groundwater and issues based on climate in Virginia. M. Rifaat requested a motion to approve the new language and direct the Board’s recommendation to the Coal and Energy Commission. R. Brame moved to approve the recommendations. J. Byrne seconded the motion. Discussion followed. T. Benson circulated two handouts on the discussion on the possibility of uranium mining in Virginia. (Brame, Byrne, unanimous)

4.1) TECHNICAL

1. The following BMP applicants and associated conservation plans were approved by the technical committee for the Board for funding and tax credit: *indicates added during Board Meeting.

<u>Practice</u>	<u>B/P/C</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Tax Credit</u>
SL1	P	Glenwood Ag.	O	\$ 4,053.45	\$ 0.00
SL8H	P	Theodore Ticken	O	\$ 1,744.75	\$ 0.00
SL8H	P	Lazy Creek Farm	M	\$ 6,141.45	\$ 0.00
SL8B	P	Mark Overholt	M	\$ 5,964.00	\$ 0.00
SL8H	P	Paul Heatwole	C	\$ 2,275.00	\$ 0.00
SL6	P	Rob Racer	O	\$ 6,448.05	\$ 537.34
SL6	P	Thomas Ford, Jr.	M	\$ 4,055.25	\$ 337.94
SL6	P	Reva Tutt*	C	\$ 10,723.01	\$ 893.58
SL8H	P	Levi Atkins*	R	\$ 420.00	\$ 0.00
SL6	P	Kenwood LLC*	O	\$ 12,394.84	\$ 1,032.84
SL11B	P	Kenwood LLC*	O	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,581.25
SL8H	P	Glen Cove Farm*	O	\$ 2,814.00	\$ 0.00
SL8H	P	Glen Cove Farm*	O	\$ 831.95	\$ 0.00

J. Boldridge moved to accept the Technical Committee Report. B. Jarvis seconded the motion. (Boldridge, Jarvis, unanimous)

4.2) OPERATIONS

J. Byrne stated the letter to L. Preston Bryant, Secretary of Natural Resources needs to have a sentence added to the letter. Discussion followed on the 5 year history of the VA BMP cost-share administrative support. A. Sappington suggested taking the last 3 year's history of the VA BMP cost-share administrative support. J. Boldridge motion to accept the change to 3 years. J. Byrne seconded the motion. R. Brame suggested changing the wording from level of support to administrative support level. D. Cross suggested sending a copy to Joseph Maroon, Director, DCR and to Jack Frye, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Director. (Boldridge, Byrne, unanimous)

R. Bradford moved to accept the Operation Committee Report. L. Graves seconded the motion. (Bradford, Graves, unanimous)

4.3) EDUCATION

M. Rifaat referred to item #6 on the Education Committee Minutes: Public Information Sessions. She commended the committee on its fine job of keeping the Board informed and educated. Beverly Hunter will talk about a Watershed report at this meeting, Brad Jarvis will discuss nutrient budgeting in January, Greg Wichelns suggested nutrient trading and nonpoint offset, and the March session will be carbon sequestration and soil quality. B. Jarvis will take the lead on that topic. It is a broad spectrum of material that is timely and significant. M. Rifaat moved to accept the Education Committee Report. R. Brame seconded the motion. (Rifaat, Brame, unanimous)

4.4) MINUTES

A. Sappington suggested on page 4 of the minutes the third bullet, second sentence to read: In addition to being a water conservation practice, rainwater harvesting will be included in a new stormwater management handbook as a stormwater practice. A. Sappington moved to accept the minutes with corrections. R. Brame seconded the motion. (Sappington, Brame, unanimous)

5) DIRECTORS REPORTS

- J. Lampert reported Christmas farms are open for business and asked everyone to support their local tree farm.
- J. Byrne reminded everyone that the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting is being held from Sunday, December 7th, 2008 to Tuesday, December 9th, 2008 in Roanoke, Virginia. There is going to be an election at the Area II meeting for a new Area Chair or to renew the Area Chair.
- B. Jarvis reported the Technical Advisory Committee will be meeting on Friday, December 5th, 2008 for the BMP Cost-Share Program. B. Jarvis, R. Bradford and D. Cross will be attending the meeting.

Thursday, December 4th, 2008 will be a Crop Production Meeting at Graves Mountain Lodge. G. Wichelns will be speaking.

January 12th, 2009 is the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council Conference at the Reva Fire House from 8:30 to 3:00, January 13th, 2009 at Rowe's Restaurant in Mt. Crawford, January 14th, 2009 at Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, and January 15th, 2009 at the Wytheville Meeting Center in Wytheville.

2009 Equine Forage Conference will be held Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009 at the Elk's Lodge in Charlottesville, VA.

6) STAFF REPORTS

- S. DeNicola reported the Annual Report for all directors is in the back of the room and to please take one with them. She is working on a local Environthon to be held in Rappahannock in

- March. Culpeper will be co-hosting the Area II Environthon with Thomas Jefferson District, April 22, 2009 at Montpelier in Orange. S. DeNicola is also working on an EPA Grant.
- D. Massie reported on the Northern Piedmont Grazing School in November at Lakota Farm in Remington. S. Yager and D. Massie represented the District and found it to be very informative.
 - S. Yager no report.
 - J. Rosetti from the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) for Rappahannock and Fauquier Counties introduced himself. J. Rosetti reported DOF is now accepting easements in Rappahannock County. The land must be a minimum of 50 acres and have a minimum of 75 percent forest cover. He will be working with S. De Nicola on the Environthon. J. Rosetti is based out of the Warrenton office.
 - J. Neal thanked Joseph Rossetti, Department of Forestry for bringing the forestry calendars.
 - G. Wichelns reported on a report on Albemarle County – an effort by the Rivanna Conservation Society, the Southern Environmental Law Center, and UVA Law School’s Environmental Law and Conservation Clinic regarding storm water management. It is a code review and also has been done for Greene County. The report will be coming soon and is looking at reducing the impact of stormwater runoff. It is based on a model from the Center for Watershed Protection that has been around for quite some time. Greene County will be given a summary report prior to issuing the publication. This is something the District might look into finding the resources to bring to other counties. Greg stated the current report was focused on the Rivanna watershed. The draft contract for services to Greene County is still at the County level.
- The Culpeper District is working on an EPA Environmental Education Grant to include: S. DeNicola, S. Yager, E. Blumenstein and G. Wichelns. The deadline is December 18th, 2008. Some of the activities are: stream cleanups, ag dinners, and an essay contest for K through 12 grades that will involve some educational trips the Chesapeake Bay. The grant is about community education and watershed issues.
- R. Jacobs reported with the interest on water supply planning he used the USGS website to pull the year 2000 Water Use Data for the counties in the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District and an created an informational table. The information is domestic and public supply. Discussion followed.
 - E. Blumenstein no report.

7) AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS –R. Rexrode written report.

DCR - D. Cross handed out DCR’s report to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board for November 21, 2008. On December 17th, 2008 the Governor will announce his budget for the coming year and in all likelihood that is the time when we learn whether there will be additional cuts to the current budget.

VASWCD Area II fall meeting will be held on Monday December 8th, 2008 at 4:15 p.m. in Roanoke at the Annual Meeting. Also, during the Annual Meeting on Sunday, the Potomac Council will be having their meeting at 5 p.m. followed by a social.

The Rappahannock River Basin Commission had a conference call among the conservation district chairs of the 7 districts that drain into the Rappahannock, and Katherine Harrigan, District Director from Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District will be the new representative of the soil and water conservation districts on the Commission. The group decided her term will run commensurate with her term as a district director which is 3 years. The Code of Virginia prohibits extension agents and appointed directors to serve. One of the legislative issues that the districts are in support of is to change the code so appointed district directors can also serve.

The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board is made up of gubernatorial appointees from all over Virginia. Typically there is one from each of the 6 VASWCD Areas within Virginia. Just recently Gary Hornbaker, of Loudoun SWCD was appointed to the Board to represent Area II. There are also 3 members at-large, (Jean Packard, Northern Virginia SWCD, Ray Simms, Tri-County/City SWCD and Susan Hansen) that are selected by the Governor to serve on the Board and Joseph H. Maroon, the Director of DCR also serves as a voting member on the Board. The Board acts as an advisory board to DCR as well as the Governor. They are also the ones that approve the stormwater regulations, erosion and sediment control regulations and are responsible for the dam safety regulations. The Board makes appointments of District Directors, appointment of Directors At-Large, and the extension agent appointments. They are also the Board that approves if an elected director should resign or leave office. They also approve financial policy that has been implemented by DCR for funding.

8) PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD – None.

9) PLAN FOR DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in Culpeper) AND THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2009 IN CULPEPER COUNTY AT THE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY BANK.


Committees will meet on Tuesday, December 16th, 2008 at the Culpeper County USDA Service Center. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00 and Legislative 11:00. The Educational/PR Committee will meet at 8 A.M. at the War Memorial Building in Madison County.

10) ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the December, 2008 Board meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monira Rifaat,



JoAnn Neal
Administrative Secretary

Chairman _____
Date Approved _____