

MINUTES
CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Virginia Community Bank
Culpeper, Virginia
January 6, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chair Monira Rifaat at 9:35 AM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Monira Rifaat, Rappahannock County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
Laura Campbell, Culpeper County
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Lynn Graves, Madison County
Alyson Sappington, Orange County
Robert Brame, Greene County Director
John Genho, Rappahannock County
Brad Jarvis, Madison County, Virginia Cooperative Extension
Warren Lee, Orange County Associate Director

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Richard McNear, Rappahannock County Associate Director
Betty Shelton, Orange County Associate Director
Cathy Kloetzli, Greene County Associate Director, VCE
Christa Lightburn, Madison County Associate Director
James Byrne, Madison County
John Boldridge, Culpeper County
Steve Morris, Greene County Associate Director
Jocelyn P. Lampert, Culpeper Associate Director

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
Rex Rexrode, NRCS District Conservationist, Culpeper

1) CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

M. Rifaat welcomed everyone to Culpeper, Virginia. Following the invocation by M. Rifaat and the Pledge of Allegiance, G. Wichelns stated there were two handouts from D. Cross: 1) Report to Districts for January 2009, and 2) Agenda for a meeting coming up January 13, (Claytor Lake State Park) and January 14 (Albemarle Co. Office, C'ville) for two new ag BMP's for pastureland in TMDL watersheds. G. Wichelns had two additional handouts: 1) final State SWCD Association Legislative Agenda and 2) summary from D. Wells, Association Legislative Chair, regarding the Governor's budget for next year.

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. R. Rexrode requested an addition to the Technical Committee Report for tax credits. The Chair recommended consideration (per R. Brame) that the Draft Board Minutes be taken off the Consent Agenda as a matter of regular procedure. Draft

Minutes placed as 4 A on current agenda. L. Campbell moved to approve the Agenda as amended. R. Brame seconded the motion. (Campbell, Brame, unanimous)

4A) DRAFT MINUTES

M. Rifaat called for approval of the Draft Minutes. R. Brame moved to approve the Draft Minutes. L. Campbell seconded the motion. (Brame, Campbell, unanimous)

3) CONSENT AGENDA

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION
OPERATIONS
LEGISLATIVE

TREASURER’S REPORT

4) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

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:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>B/P/C</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>		<u>Amount</u>	<u>Tax Credit</u>
SL6	P	James McWilliams	O	\$	35,140.05	\$ 2,928.34
SL6	P	Walker Rowe	R	\$	4,204.28	\$ 350.36

2. The following BMP participants have completed their projects and are ready for payment: *indicated 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>
FR3	C	Crowder Family LP*	M	\$	1,375.00	\$ 690.56
SL6		S. Paige Higginbotham*	O	\$	13,320.30	\$1,110.03

3. R. Rexrode requested the following participants for tax credits, the practices were installed as part of EQIP contracts. *indicated 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>
SL6	EQIP	Greenstone Farm*	O	\$.00	\$ 759.71
11B	EQIP	Dwight Boston*	O	\$.00	\$1,076.25

R. Bradford moved to approve the Technical Committee report as amended. B. Jarvis seconded the motion. (Bradford, Jarvis, unanimous)

M. Rifaat requested more information on the EQIP contracts and tax credits being approved by the Board. R. Bradford stated these are participants who are doing EQIP contracts and are doing BMP’s which would qualify them for the state tax credit. The tax credit is only 25% of the out of pocket cost. **R. Rexrode stated NRCS will be closely monitoring EQIP contracts for additional BMP state tax credits to be given to the District in timely manner.** Discussion followed.

5) DIRECTORS REPORTS

- B. Jarvis requested information on the location of the state budget public hearing in Charlottesville this Thursday, January 8th, at 10 a.m. M. Rifaat suggested going to the Governor's website for the information.
The Virginia Forage and Grassland Council, Virginia Cattlemen's Association and Virginia Cooperative Extension is holding the 2009 Winter Forage Conferences January 12th, 2009 at Reva Fire Hall, January 13th, 2009 at Mr. Crawford, Rowe's Restaurant, January 14th, 2009 at Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, and January 15th, 2009 at Wytheville Meeting Center. D. Cross handed out brochures for this. There is a cost for the meeting.
- L. Campbell reported on a meeting tonight held by the Uranium Mining Sub-Committee in Chatham, Virginia for public comment on a state study on uranium mining. The uranium deposit at Coles Hill which is located near Chatham, Virginia is the world's largest deposit of radio active ore worth an estimated 10 billion dollars. The CSWCD Uranium Mining Resolution was adopted by the full state association (VASWCD) with minor changes. It was sent to the legislative contact person for that sub-committee and for the Commission on Coal and Energy. They are in receipt of the VASWCD Resolution, map and email explaining the process of the association. M. Rifaat reported that the VASWCD Resolution was sent to each of the six districts in Area II and they were asked to contact their representatives.
L. Campbell reported the Virginia Energy Independence Alliance was found on the internet and states Virginia holds the keys to unlock America's dependence on foreign energy. Discussion followed.
- A. Sappington reported the Virginia Association (VASWCD) has re-started an Urban Committee. Mary Johnson from the Thomas Jefferson District will Chair the committee and A. Sappington from the Culpeper District will Vice-Chair: they are looking for a core group to get the committee started. Stormwater regulations will be a main issue and keeping districts abreast of the details of the stormwater regulations so the districts can make intelligent comments when the public comment period starts. Also promoting educational campaigns for districts and local staff on the stormwater regulations will be a focus. R. Jacobs was recommended to the committee by M. Rifaat. Discussion followed.
- W. Lee reported Lake of the Woods (LOW) has approximately 650 drainage easements put on 4300 lots. In the 40 years in place they have never been reviewed. The LOW Association has recruited volunteers to evaluate the drainage easements and it will be up to the LOW Association to determine what needs to be done. At the same time they will be looking at sediment and erosion. The goal is to reduce the amount of sediment and pollution going into the lake. On January 30, 2009 the State Board will be considering our Lake of the Woods dam. There is a need for expanding the spillway. The design of the spillway is completed and the issue is allowing a gate to be put in to allow a draw down of the lake prior to a hurricane coming. W. Lee stated they are finding that other states have much greater flexibility in doing their work than Virginia.
- M. Rifaat *discussed the resolution adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Washington, Va., to go ahead with the construction of the waste water treatment plant. Hook up will cost each household \$7,500 and more for commercial operations such as restaurants and B & B's. This in addition to usage fees. There are ramifications to this decision: hardship on families with fixed incomes; those not wishing to hookup will have a lien placed on this property by the town council in the amount of \$7,500; each household or commercial operation will be required to give an easement on their land to run the hookup; the existing septic system for each property will have to be pumped and capped at the expense of the owner.* Discussion followed.
- M. Rifaat *discussed the Governor's budget proposal; it will remain to be seen what action the General Assembly will take. January 19th is designated as General Assembly day for the Soil and Water and Water Conservation Districts.*

6) STAFF REPORTS

- S. DeNicola reported Channel 16 is a Culpeper Access Channel that does a show called Virginia Living, and wants to do a show about CSWCD and go on a farm with BMP. An EPA grant was submitted in December and we should hear from them this spring.
- R. Jacobs reported the NFWF grant for Lake of the Woods that has been submitted has had the invitation for final requests postponed until the end of January.
- E. Blumenstein no report. M. Rifaat request information on the septic system program. Was any grant money used in the town to upgrade septic field tanks. The money could be used if they are within 300 feet of a stream to help them pump, but the money cannot be used for hookup fees. Discussion followed.
- D. Massie reported he and S. Yager will be at the 2009 Winter Forage and Grassland Council Conference on Monday, January 12th at Reva and that same day there is a TMLD meeting for the Hazel, Hughes and Rush rivers.
There is a new No-Till practice: Long Term Continuous No-Till Planting (LTCNT). Discussion followed on the (LTCNT) practice. There are two new bmp's for TMDL areas only: LE-1T (Livestock Exclusion with Riparian Buffers) and LE-2T (Livestock Exclusion with Reduced Setback).
- S. Yager no report.
- J. Neal no report.
- G. Wichelns reported on Governor Kaine's proposed budget. We are currently operating under an approximate \$12,000 reduction from the state. Next year that will continue with another \$5,000 added to it to be \$17,000 of a reduction. Depending on how the economic trends continue or not in the next few months there could be more reductions.
Next Monday, the government working group, of the implementation planning effort of the TMDL project in Rappahannock, northern Madison and western Culpeper will have its first meeting. To see what a previous effort looks like, search for the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission, click on Environment, click on TMDL Implementation and you will find government working group minutes from the Fauquier effort a couple of years ago. Discussion followed.

7) AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS –R. Rexrode reported they completed their portion of the audit. NRCS is still waiting on the rules which need to be rewritten with the passage of the new Farm Bill regarding federal programs for 2009.

DCR - D. Cross handed out DCR's report to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board for December 7, 2008. There is a new publication out on Riparian Forest Buffers Forests on the Water's Edge. Anyone needing the publication please let D. Cross know.

The Virginia Forage and Grassland Council is also having a series equine workshops in March. There is going to be one in Charlottesville on March 30th.

Quarterly reports are due by January 15th, 2009

State Ag BMP Technical Advisory Committee's next meeting is January 30th, 2009.

Clean Water Farm Awards – Custom Harvesters, Inc, Andrew Oliver, Culpeper SWCD was recognized for outstanding conservation in the York Basin as the recipient of the York Grand Basin Award.

8) PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD – None.

9) PLAN FOR DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in Orange) AND THE FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009 IN GREENE COUNTY AT THE BLUE RIDGE CAFE IN RUCKERSVILLE.

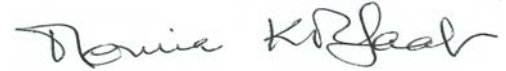
Committees will meet on Tuesday, January 20th, 2009 at the Orange County USDA Service Center. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, and Technical 10:00. The Educational/PR Committee will meet at 8 A.M. at the War Memorial Building in Madison County.

10) ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the January, 2009 Board meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monira Rifaat,



JoAnn Neal
Administrative Secretary

Chairman _____

Date Approved _____