

THOMAS JEFFERSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Michie Tavern, Charlottesville, VA
December 14, 2016

Present:

Directors: Pratley, Bradshaw, Collins, Meeks, Murdoch, Murray, Thompson, McGoff (Assoc. Director)
Staff: Sappington, Eiserman, Hyatt, MD Johnson, ME Johnson, Longanecker, Ramsey, Talley, Walton
Agencies: Cross (DCR), Bayless (NRCS); Carroll (NRCS); Lipinski (NRCS); Kirkland (NRCS)
Guests: None

Absent:

Directors: Campbell, Easter, Goodman, Swanson, Wagner, Tingley (Assoc. Director)

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Pratley established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION ITEMS:

Appointment of Nominating Committee:

Mr. Pratley appointed Ms. Bradshaw and Ms. McGoff to the TJSWCD Nominating Committee. They will make their recommendations during the January Director's meeting.

Finance/Budget Committee Report:

Mr. Meeks reported that the Budget/Finance Committee reviewed the monthly financial statements and all appear to be in order.

MOTION: *Mr. Murray moved to approve the Finance/Budget Committee report. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.*

Ag Committee Report:

Mr. Thompson briefed the Directors on a project the Committee had discussed, where two non-yielding dry wells were drilled before a successfully producing well was established (on the 3rd attempt). He stated the Committee recommended approval to increase the previously approved cost-share funds to include one of the dry wells. The Committee also recommended approval of a 25% reimbursement tax credit for the cost of the second dry well. Mr. Thompson stated that they are urging the producer to contact the well driller and request a lower fee for the two non-yielding dry wells.

Mr. Thompson also reported the Committee discussed another livestock watering system project where a producer wanted to utilize an existing well that was dug 14 years ago, but had no power or pump installed. The Committee recommended approval to provide cost share funding for the installation of an over-head power line as a part of the overall project, however if the owner wished to bury the power line, he would have to do so at his own expense. They also requested the owner to provide any available well records, as well as install a pump and generator to provide water to his livestock in the interim.

Luke Longanecker reported the Ag Committee recommended the appointment of Joe Thompson as the Board of Directors' approval authority for cost share tax credits until the end of the calendar year,

MOTION: *Mr. Collins moved to approve the Ag Committee report and all recommendations. Mr. Meeks provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.*

Septic Cost Share Applications:

Lisa Hyatt reported that the Water Resource Committee did not meet this month, however she did provide an update on the progress staff has made on resolving an issue with a current septic project.

VCAP-CCAP Cost Share Applications:

Michael Ramsey briefed the Directors on a recent conservation landscaping application from Peabody School. He stated they would like to also install a green roof. Mr. Ramsey added that he has also been working on a rainwater harvesting system in Charlottesville along First Street.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Septic Pump-Outs \$150 Each (RB-1): Loomba (Hardware TMDL) and Onyango (Hardware TMDL)

Cost Share (SL-6 Projects): Hunt (\$14,523.42) and Worthington (\$33,103.70)

SL-6 Project Increases: Taylor (\$4,572.02)

Conservation Plan Approvals: Worthington, SL-6 and Hunt, SL-6

Committee Minutes: Water Resources Committee (11/30/16); Budget Committee (11/30/16);

MOTION: *Mr. Meeks moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Thompson provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.*

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

SWCB Meeting Update:

Alyson Sappington attended the Soil and Water Conservation Board Meeting earlier this month and reported that there may be a grant announcement on Feb. 15, 2017 for small dam repairs. The proposed application deadline is March 31st, with a start date of July 1, 2017. She reminded the Directors that the primary issue with district dams are with the existing gate valves. She stated that DCR has allocated \$100,000 in funding to hire diving companies (on a regional basis) to conduct an engineering study of the existing gate valves and provide a written report on the opening/closing condition of each gate valve they inspect. She added the funding will provide for only 20 inspections, and was unsure if TJSWCD's dams would be included in the study.

Ms. Sappington also reported that there were several stakeholder groups being formed by DCR - one of which is for Conservation Planning and Certification and that Brian Wagner's name has been submitted as a potential member of that group. She stated that in other stakeholder groups include one for BMP Spot Check Procedures and Conceptual Design of Financial Database for improved integration of financials and tracking. Meetings for all of DCR's stakeholder groups will be advertised on the Town Hall web site (as before). Ms. Sappington emphasized that she believes it is important to have TJSWCD representation on these groups - or at least have someone attend the meetings to provide input and to keep the District current on potential changes.

Ms. Sappington stated that DCR is not certain if funding will be available to districts for recertification of structural practices, as was in previous years. She added that DCR may enlist their own part-time staff for this work, however district staff will be included in the recertification process.

VASWCD Annual Meeting Updates:

Mr. Meeks reported he was impressed with TJSWCD's attendance at this year's VASWCD Annual Meeting. He added that as a member of the Association Board, he had the opportunity to attend the employee's luncheon where TJ staff member, Martin Johnson was recognized for his 15 years of service, and Alyson Sappington for her 30 years of service.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS:

DCR:

Ms. Cross reminded Directors to review their contact information for the VASWCD directory and get all changes to Mary Johnson. She added that FY17-Q2 quarterly reports are due on January 17th, and provided an update to the injunction to the new FSLA regulations which were to take effect on Dec. 1, 2016. She noted that the new regulations are on "hold" until the Courts rule, and that districts should be following the former FSLA guidelines regarding exempt, non-exempt staff status and overtime determinations. Ms. Cross also encouraged the District to review the FY17 grant deliverables and also to participate in the VASWCD Legislative Day scheduled for January 12, 2017.

TJWRP Foundation:

Martin Johnson reported that Mr. Thompson assisted with two easement inspections. He added that Mr. Thompson has been very active with the Foundation, and as a result, anticipates recommended changes to the language of the future deeds of easement. Mr. Johnson stated the next Foundation Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

STAFF REPORTS:

Ms. Sappington reported as she was cleaning out her files to prepare for her upcoming retirement, she came across her very first staff report, which she found very interesting. She also reported she received by mail some pictures of her working out in the field very early in her career with the District.

Ms. Johnson reported that hats embroidered with the TJSWCD logo and name are now available. She added current IRS regulations states that the costs of work clothing provided by employers (such as embroidered shirts, jackets, etc.,) must be reported as a taxable fringe benefit - unless they meet certain exemption tests. Therefore, the District was encouraging staff to bring in their own garments to be embroidered with the District name and logo, which will be done at no cost to the employee.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mr. Thompson reported that he attended the VASWCD Annual Meeting and commented on the various training sessions that were available.

Mr. Pratley thanked Ms. Sappington again for her dedicated 30 years of service to the District and wished her well on her upcoming retirement.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: *Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Murray provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by: _____
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____
Chair