

THOMAS JEFFERSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
May 31, 2017

Present:

Directors: Bradshaw, Collins, Easter, Murdoch, Murray, Pratley (Chairman), Swanson, Wagner
McGoff (Assoc. Director)

Staff: Coates, DaMitz, Hyatt, Martin Johnson, Longanecker, Ramsey

Agencies: Davis (DCR), Kirkland (NRCS), Seay (NRCS)

Guests:

Absent:

Directors: Campbell, Meeks, Goodman, Tingley (Assoc. Director)

Staff: Eiserman, Walton, Talley

CALL TO ORDER:

Due to a delay in Mr. Pratley's arrival, Mr. Wagner established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:36 am.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

MOTION: *Mr. Easter moved and Mr. Thompson seconded to move the Budget and Personnel Ops Committee reports to after the closed session. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.*

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of the Minutes:

Mr. Wagner opened the floor for changes to the minutes. There were none.

MOTION: *Mr. Easter moved and Mr. Murdoch seconded to approve the Director's Meeting Minutes for April 26, 2017. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.*

Agriculture Committee Report:

- Mr. Thompson reviewed the notable discussion items from the committee meeting. *See attached minutes and documents.*

MOTION: *Mr. Murray moved and Mr. Easter seconded to approve the report of the Ag. Committee. Without further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.*

Water Resource Committee Report:

- Mr. Murray read the list of projects and funding amounts recommended for approval by the Water Resources Committee (see Consent Agenda and attached documents).
- Mr. Murray reported that new applications for the District Wide Septic program have been halted due to lack of available funds. Any interested residents will be put on a waiting list in the event that additional funds become available.
- Mr. Murray briefly discussed land-use, outreach and TMDL guidelines for tree planting in the Hardware watershed.
- Mr. Murray reported that VCAP has approximately \$32,000 in funds remaining.

MOTION: *Mr. Thompson moved to approve the report of the Water Resources Committee. Mr. Easter provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.*

CONSENT AGENDA:

Last Name/Business	Contract #	Instance	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share	Potential Tax Credit	Final Tax Credit	Conservation Plan Approval
Felder	02-17-0388	273880	RB-1	\$150.00			
McPherson	02-17-0390	273912	RB-1	\$150.00			
Harmon	02-17-0397	274701	RB-1	\$150.00			
Massie	02-17-0389	273911	RB-1	\$150.00			
Lombreglia	02-17-0400	274802	RB-1	\$150.00			
Jackson	02-17-0393	274681	SL-6	\$57,128.11	\$3,570.51		✓
Koontz/Highlawn	02-17-0392	274656	SL-1	\$12,107.50	\$730.63		✓
Hughes	02-17-0394	274691	SL-6	\$105,340.77			✓
Edgemont Farm	02-17-0396	274694	SL-6	\$68,844.40			✓
McQuade/Blenheim	02-17-0391	274600	SL-6	\$28,891.66			✓
Ben Ghoil, LLC	02-15-0313	208754	SL-6	\$65,547.10			✓
Lunsford	02-15-0402	209264	SL-6	\$41,350.70			✓
Powell	02-15-0390	209179	SL-6	\$21,891.98			✓
Bundoran	02-17-0009	264354	LE-1T			\$1,998.92	
Brumfield	02-17-0286	267827	FR-1			\$841.74	
Abell Brothers	02-16-0339	236077	SL-1			\$258.49	
Haeckel	02-17-0052	252387	SL-6			\$900.00	
Knight	02-15-0284	206707	SL-6	\$3,578.88			
Clark	02-15-0328	209068	SL-6				✓

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

*11:14pm Mr. Wagner passed Chairman duties to Mr. Pratley

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Albemarle County Buffer Ordinance:

- Mr. Pratley asked for feedback from directors, agency partners and staff who had recently attended meetings regarding the Albemarle County buffer ordinance that is currently in place for all land-use applications. Mr. Pratley read an email from Mr. Meeks who stated that in his opinion farmers were pleased with the ordinance as-is and that there is no need for a review. Mr. Murray stated that he felt a revision to the ordinance should be done in order to correct the land-use tax discount that in his opinion does nothing to improve water quality. He also noted that tree planting should be a requirement in the ordinance. Ms. McGoff noted the differences in agriculture and non-agriculture land-use and that inside the growth area it is permissible to fill in intermittent streams. Additionally, she noted that a recent county survey concluded that a majority of residents do not know how to properly protect water on their property. Mr. Thompson discussed the fact that the county has a program for storm water easements that many county officials are unaware of and therefore it is not utilized. Mr. Kirkland stated that he was concerned about the impact that county regulations would have on NRCS projects. He noted that landowners cannot receive federal funding if their project is required by local law. Ms. Swanson stressed the importance of the Board seeing the larger picture in order to promote water quality. Lastly, Mr. Pratley noted that the state has funded an enormous amount of buffers and that he has concerns about the impact on the district if grandfathering were to be put in place. He stated that a letter would likely be drawn up in order to express the districts position on the ordinance. Ms. Coates asked for language and input from the directors in order to begin drafting the letter.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS:

DCR:

- Mr. Davis reviewed the monthly report from Ms. Cross with the Board and pointed out some notable topics. See attached report for full details.

NRCS:

- Mr. Kirkland reported that NRCS has a deadline of June 30th to have pre-approvals under contract. He noted he had not received an update regarding recent changes to the National Conservation Planning Policy that will affect the requirements for certification.

VCE:

- Ms. Swanson reported her agency had a well-received water testing program with 120 participants.

DEQ:

- See attached report

TJWRP:

- Mr. Johnson reported that a budget committee had been set up by the Foundation and that a budget proposal will be presented at the June board meeting. Mr. Thompson noted that he had recently been made Chairman of the Foundation.

Mr. Pratley proposed moving the directors and staff reports to before the closed session.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Ms. Hyatt noted a copy of letter in her staff report from a septic cost-share participant who thanked the staff and Mr. Collins for their assistance.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

- Mr. Murray reported that he recently attended a meeting of the Rivanna River Basin Commission and noted that there would be a budget in the new fiscal year funded by Albemarle and Fluvanna Counties. The commission is currently discussing priorities for funding and welcomes ideas from the board.
- Ms. Bradshaw reported that this would be her final board meeting as a director, noting that Mr. Tingley would be returning in August. She thanked the district and the board.

CLOSED SESSION:

MOTION: *Mr. Wagner moved to go into Closed Session as provided in the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711 (A) (i) to discuss personnel positions and compensation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson, and passed unanimously. Ms. Coates was invited to attend the Closed Session; all others in attendance removed themselves from the meeting.*

CERTIFICATION: *Mr. Murray moved, "Pursuant to the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3712(D), I move to certify that to the best of the Board's knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted and as identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened, were heard or discussed by this Board during the Closed Session". The motion was seconded by Mr. Easter. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 7 to 0.*

Personnel/Ops Committee Report:

MOTION: *Mr. Wagner moved and Mr. Easter seconded a motion approving the Personnel / Operations Committee's report and recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.*

Budget Committee Report:

- Mr. Easter noted that not all reports were ready at the time of the meeting, but those available do appear to be in order.
- Mr. Easter noted that a slight increase in revenue is projected for FY18
- Mr. Easter noted that the uncleared check report needs revision in order to clarify reporting.

MOTION: *Mr. Wagner moved and Mr. Murray seconded a motion approving the Budget Committee's report. The motion passed unanimously.*

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: *Mr. Easter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Wagner provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Submitted by: _____
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____
Chair