

THOMAS JEFFERSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2018

Present:

Directors: Pratley (Chair), Campbell, Collins, Easter, Meeks, Murdoch, Murray, Swanson, Wagner

Staff: Coates, DaMitz, Eiserman, Hyatt, Johnson, Longanecker, Moyer, Talley

Agencies: Bayless (NRCS), Cross (DCR), Gehlsen (VASWCD), Tesauro (DCR)

Absent:

Directors: Tingley, Thompson, McGoff (Associate Director)

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Pratley called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Pratley congratulated Mr. Talley and his wife on the birth of their son. Mr. Pratley introduced guests Joe Tesauro (DCR Nutrient Management Specialist) and Jim Gehlsen (VASWCD Area II Chair and Prince William SWCD Vice Chair).

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

GROUP PHOTO: The group photo was postponed to October.

ACTION ITEMS:

Directors' Meeting Minutes:

MOTION:** Mr. Murray moved to approve the August 29, 2018, Directors' Meeting Minutes. Mr. Meeks seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.

Annual Report:

Ms. Hyatt presented the FY 2018 Annual Report and invited Directors to submit comments or additional pictures. The Annual Report was submitted to DCR as required by September 30, but additional photos and supplemental information will be added before the report is printed for distribution to localities and other stakeholders. Ms. Coates related that this new Annual Report will replace the calendar previously distributed by mail; the report will primarily be distributed electronically to limit printing costs. Ms. Hyatt also shared the TJ by the Numbers postcard.

Clean Water Award:

Mr. Longanecker requested approval of two Clean Water Farm Award nominations: Holly and Ron Reynolds for Greeno Farm (Louisa County, York River Basin) and Mike and Ashley McMahan for Magnolia Farm (Albemarle County, James River Basin).

MOTION:** Ms. Wagner moved for approval of the Clean Water Farm Award nominations. Mr. Meeks seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.

Louisa Board of Director Vacancy:

Ms. Coates reported that she received 14 suggestions for the Louisa vacancy. She will invite them to attend upcoming board meetings if interested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Agriculture Committee:

Mr. Longanecker summarized the Agriculture Committee meeting and reviewed projects recommended for approval (*see attached minutes and reports for details*). Mr. Longanecker noted the need to remove two projects from the consent agenda that the committee tabled.

Mr. Longanecker also reported on recent flood damage in Nelson and Louisa. There is some flexibility to use cost-share funding to repair affected practices, which resets the project lifespan.

MOTION: *Mr. Easter moved to accept the Agriculture Committee report. Mr. Meeks seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.***

Water Resources Committee:

Mr. Murray summarized the recent Water Resources Committee meeting and reviewed projects recommended for approval (*see attached minutes and reports for details*).

MOTION: *Mr. Easter moved to approve the Water Resources Committee report and recommendations for project approvals. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.***

Finance/Budget Committee:

Mr. Easter reported that the Finance/Budget Committee reviewed monthly financial reports, dedicated reserve allocations totaling \$127,000, and a VASWCD Annual Meeting booth sponsorship request for \$50.

MOTION: *Mr. Wagner moved to approve the Finance/Budget Committee report and the VASWCD booth sponsorship. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.***

MOTION: *Mr. Meeks moved to approve the FY 2019 Dedicated Reserve Allocations. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.***

Dam Committee:

Mr. Pratley reported that the one dam repair bid was received exceeded the available funding. Ms. Coates has submitted an application to DCR for \$36,000 in additional funding. Mr. Talley stated that Charles Wilson, DCR dam engineer, felt the bid amount was reasonable. Mr. Longanecker and Mr. Talley will explore options for cost reductions.

Mr. Talley reported that the dams performed well during the recent rainfall event in Louisa, with no flow in the emergency spillways. Louisa Emergency Services staff has offered to assist the District staff gauge observers.

Mr. Easter asked if the District can use dam maintenance funds towards the repair project. Ms. Cross explained the delineations for maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation funding; she suggested asking Mr. Wilson if maintenance funds can be used towards repair projects.

Ms. Coates spoke to concerns regarding staffing levels and safety during emergency flood response. They are researching options for emergency radios and electronic gauges.

Mr. Pratley reported that Mr. Tingley has been in communication with John Peterson about dam decommissioning, and Mr. Peterson is planning a visit to tour the dams. Mr. Talley related that Matt Lyons is also willing to consult on the process. Discussion ensued regarding the complex considerations in the dam decommissioning process.

Legislative Agenda:

Mr. Gehlsen related that the legislative agenda item regarding multijurisdictional utility projects needs clarification, and a subcommittee was formed to gather additional information. Mr. Wagner commented that "multijurisdictional" was included so that this would not apply to local government utility projects, which area generally within a single jurisdiction. Mr. Wagner said the reasoning was to capture larger utility projects. Mr. Collins stated that they can have a huge project in one county, and the bigger issues are size, time, landscape and topography, stream crossings, etc. Mr. Murray agreed that the issue is the impact, but "multijurisdictional" is simpler. Ms. Swanson commented that larger utilities would simply stage projects to evade the restrictions.

Mr. Wagner identified utility classifications and variances as potential legislative issues, while other issues may be better directed at DEQ regulations for erosion and sediment control law and locality input. Mr. Meeks agreed, noting that DEQ is willing to discuss regulatory aspects with the subcommittee. Mr. Meeks encouraged them to be specific as to the desired legislative changes.

Mr. Murray commented that citizen observers are frustrated at the lack of a clear mechanism for reporting pipeline project violations to DEQ and enforcing stop work orders. Mr. Wagner stated that FERC third-party inspectors used to inspect pipeline projects and had their own stop-work order authority; DEQ has stop-work authority but does not have the staff to inspect every mile of pipeline. Mr. Wagner suggested that the State Water Control Board require third-party inspectors as a condition of future projects. Mr. Gehlsen will continue discussions with the subcommittee.

Directors are encouraged to attend the VASWCD business meeting to provide comments and vote on the legislative agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Committee Minutes: Budget Committee 8-29-2018; Personnel/Operations Committee 8-29-2018, Water Resources Committee 8-29-2018; and Agriculture Committee 9-26-2018 with Consent Items.

Last Name / Business	Contract #	Instance	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share	Potential Tax Credit	Final Tax Credit	Conservation Plan Approval
Quaker Hill Farm	02-17-0314	268884	WP-4			\$3,520.40	
Clarke	02-17-0312	268874	SL-6			\$1,745.37	
Embrey	02-19-0065	327880	SL-6	\$29,093.60	\$1,818.35		Yes
Old Norwood Plantation	02-19-0025	323358	SL-6	\$18,849.72	\$1,178.11		Yes
Old Norwood Plantation	02-19-0025	328037	FR-3	\$2,237.50	\$101.13		Yes
Morningstar Farm	02-19-0063	327852	SL-6	\$16,370.96	\$1,023.19		Yes
Riverview Farms Cattle, LLC	02-19-0060	327762	SL-1	\$1,687.50	\$15.63		Yes
Riverview Farms Cattle, LLC	02-19-0061	327766	SL-1	\$1,753.75	\$95.31		Yes
Claybrooke Farm, LLC	02-19-0062	327821	SL-1	\$2,362.50	\$21.88		Yes
Engel Family Farms	02-19-0064	327863	SL-1	\$8,050.00	\$437.50		Yes
White	02-19-0012	319454	SL-9	\$8,315.62	\$2,078.90		Yes
White	02-19-0011	319453	CCI-SE-1	\$9,340.00			
White	02-19-0010	319430	CCI-SE-1	\$1,875.00			
Embrey	02-19-0066	327885	CCI-SE-1	\$6,520.00			
Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.	02-19-0067	327897	CCI-SE-1	\$13,460.00			
Coates	02-19-0068	327900	RB-1	\$150.00			
Ward	02-19-0046	327266	RB-4P	\$5,000.00			
Whiting	02-19-0045	327261	RB-4P	\$5,000.00			

MOTION: Mr. Meeks moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended above. Mr. Murray seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

WIP III Update: Ms. Swanson and Ms. Coates are serving on the programmatic subcommittee. Mr. Longanecker is serving on the stream protection subcommittee. They reviewed the meeting progress to date. Ms. Cross noted that these subcommittees support the technical advisory committee in reviewing all suggestions for agricultural programs; this is supportive of but separate from WIP III. Ms. Coates reported on the urban meetings to date.

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS:

DCR: Mr. Tesaro apologized to anyone who waited on a nutrient management plan approval. Ms. Cross summarized information from her monthly report, noting that the District will be scheduled for a one-year audit (*see attached report for details*).

NRCS: Mr. Bayless reported that the farm bill is set to expire when the federal fiscal year ends on September 30, but there will be a continuation of special emphasis programs. CSP and equipment signups are over for the year. His office nominated Albert McGehee for an outstanding minority farmer award.

DEQ: DEQ provided the attached written report.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mr. Meeks reported that he planned to attend the State Water Control Board meeting. Mr. Pratley noted an upcoming bus tour in Goochland and Fluvanna.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Wagner moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Swanson seconded the motion, and ***the motion passed unanimously.***

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____
Chair