

THOMAS JEFFERSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 2018

Present:

Directors: Pratley (Chair), Collins (arrived at 10:18 a.m.), Easter, Meeks, Murdoch, Murray, Swanson, Thompson, Tingley, Wagner, McGoff (Associate Director)

Staff: Coates, DaMitz, Gyurisin, Hyatt, Longanecker, Moyer, Talley

Agencies: Cross (DCR), Kirkland (NRCS)

Absent:

Directors: Campbell

Staff: Eiserman, Johnson

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Pratley introduced Chris Gyurisin, the new conservation technician.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: The agenda was amended to add the Personnel/Operations Committee report with recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ACTION ITEMS:

Directors' Meeting Minutes:

MOTION:** Mr. Murray moved to approve the October 31, 2018, Directors' Meeting Minutes. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Officer Nominating Committee:

Mr. Murray, Mr. Easter, and Ms. McGoff agreed to serve on the nominating committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Agriculture Committee:

Mr. Thompson summarized the Agriculture Committee meeting and reviewed projects recommended for approval (*see attached minutes and reports for details*).

Ms. Hyatt reported that she has been doing regular site visits for the horse grant program, and they anticipate strong interest in the program. Ms. Coates expects that applications may exceed the grant funding available, but this will help demonstrate the need for additional funding.

Ms. Cross noted that an equine workgroup has been established to consider additional eligibility and BMPs for DCR cost share, and horses have been identified as a water quality issue in WIP III. She discussed the current cost share eligibility for horse operations. Mr. Meeks said Darryl Glover has invited the District to present on its grant program at the December 17 equine workgroup meeting.

Mr. Longanecker shared updates on the Tye and Hardware TMDLs. He requested a six-month extension on the existing Tye grant and a start date of January 1 for the new grant. Ms. Hyatt has a

waiting list of septic projects ready to go. Mr. Longanecker requested a one-year extension of the Hardware grant, and they are exploring new outreach strategies.

Mr. Thompson reported on cost share funding balances.

Water Resources Committee:

Mr. Murray summarized the recent Water Resources Committee meeting and noted that the consent agenda includes projects recommended for approval (*see attached minutes and reports for details*). Discussion included Chris Greene Lake, CCAP, and potential ACAP funding.

MOTION: *Mr. Thompson moved to accept the Water Resources Committee report. Mr. Easter seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Finance/Budget Committee:

Mr. Easter reported that the Finance/Budget Committee reviewed monthly financial reports and found everything in order. At 33 percent through the fiscal year, revenues are running at 38 percent of budgeted amounts and expenditures are at 31 percent of budgeted amounts.

MOTION: *Mr. Meeks moved to accept the Finance/Budget Committee report. Mr. Tingley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Dam Committee:

Mr. Talley reported that District staff and Board members toured three dams with DCR and NRCS staff. They discussed liability issues, potential funding for staff time, and dam lifespan issues.

Mr. Meeks noted that discussion centered on monitoring. Mr. Tingley said that DCR has installation of gauging stations on its agenda, with a target of next fiscal year. Mr. Tingley shared concerns about staffing levels and safety during storm response, and he encouraged incorporating Louisa County in the emergency response plans. Ms. Swanson noted that the original construction included several partner agencies, including Louisa County.

Mr. Pratley commented on concerns regarding downstream development in dam inundation zones, noting that there is some legislative disincentive to develop in these areas. Upstream development also poses issues with increased stormwater flow rates.

Mr. Murray asked if the District would be responsible if there was a toxic algae bloom. Ms. Swanson and Mr. Pratley noted that the District owns the dam structures and has easements on the land underlying the dams, but the District does not own or control the water.

Mr. Murray asked if decommissioning was discussed. Mr. Pratley replied yes, it was discussed, but there is not much chance of it happening. Mr. Pratley said that handing off ownership is more commonly done.

Ms. Swanson commented that the state and DCR share responsibility, but she is still concerned about liability and adequate funding. Mr. Tingley said that DCR funds dam maintenance and repairs through dedicated funding but funds personnel through the general operations funding.

Mr. Wagner asked if Spring Creek is using the lake for its stormwater requirements. Mr. Pratley suggested looking into whether the stormwater release rate is controlled. Discussion ensued regarding consideration of inundation zones in zoning and land use.

Mr. Meeks noted that Piedmont SWCD experienced spillway flow during recent storms, and they are working with VASWCD on adding funding for off-site dam monitoring to the legislative agenda. Mr. Tingley suggested considering seeking legislative action to require consideration of inundation zones in land use decisions.

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

Legislative Committee:

Mr. Meeks reported that not much has changed since last month, other than the additional dam funding provision discussed earlier. Mr. Murray shared that he attended a town hall meeting with David Toscano and Creigh Deeds where he spoke regarding the need for state funding to address the priorities to clean up the Bay and local rivers and streams, given the uncertainty of federal funding and grants. Mr. Meeks noted that the Governor's budget will be released December 18, and VASWCD is working to help articulate agency needs for District funding. Discussion ensued regarding state funding. Ms. Cross emphasized the importance of the budget template in maintaining level funding for Districts during years of funding cuts for state agencies. Mr. Pratley and Ms. Cross encouraged Directors to attend the VASWCD business meeting regarding the legislative agenda.

Personnel/Operations Committee:

Mr. Pratley reported that the Personnel/Operations Committee recommended a compensation package of \$29,500 for end-of-year bonuses.

MOTION: Mr. Tingley moved to adopt the Personnel/Operations Committee's recommendation for end-of-year bonuses. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion, and ***the motion passed unanimously.***

Louisa Board of Director Vacancy:

Mr. Pratley reported that he made three attempts to contact the suggested candidate but was unsuccessful. He asked staff to attempt to make contact since they know the candidate. It was agreed to publicly advertise the vacancy if there is no response by the December 12 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Committee Minutes: Budget Committee 10-31-2018; Personnel/Operations Committee 11-26-2018, Water Resources Committee 10-31-2018 with Consent Items; and Agriculture Committee 11-28-2018 with Consent Items.

Agriculture Practices

Last Name / Business	Contract #	Instance	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share	Potential Tax Credit	Final Tax Credit	Conservation Plan Approval
Cathro	02-18-0200	302470	LE-1T			\$970.02	
Windy Heights Dairy, LLC	02-19-0088	331577	FR-3	\$4082.50 \$769.67		\$158.13	
Riverview Farms Cattle, LLC	02-19-0018	321376	SL-6			\$902.07	
McDaniel	02-18-0025	293381	SL-6			\$718.95	
Jones	02-18-0224	304116	SL-6			\$1,799.35	
Goodwin (Increase)	02-18-0219	303229	SL-6	\$2,000			

Septic Practices

Last Name	Contract #	Instance	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share
Timberlake	02-19-0087	331575	RB-3R	\$1,600.00
Marks	02-19-0089	331579	RB-4P	\$8,000.00
Hackney	02-19-0090	331581	RB-4P	\$6,400.00
Brantley	02-19-0091	331639	RB-4	\$4,800.00

MOTION: Mr. Meeks moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Murray seconded the motion. Mr. Longanecker noted a change to the cost share amount for Windy Heights Dairy, LLC. Mr. Meeks moved to accept the amendment. Mr. Murray seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

WIP III Update: Ms. Coates reported that WIP III meetings are still ongoing. Ms. Cross noted that SWCDs and PDCs will meet together on December 6. Staff reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings. Ms. Coates reported that the PDC's urban meeting yesterday was better attended, with representatives from several localities and PEC, and this meeting focused more on programmatic changes. Ms. Coates explained concerns about locality data compilation and monitoring.

COOPERATING AGENCIES AND PARTNER REPORTS:

DCR: Ms. Cross summarized information from her monthly report and highlighted upcoming meetings (*see attached report for details*). Second quarter disbursements are expected by December 1.

NRCS: Mr. Kirkland reported that he attended the North Folk Rivanna TMDL meeting. He shared updates on project funding approvals.

VCE: Ms. Swanson reported that they held interviews for a 4-H position but there is no word yet on a replacement equine specialist.

DEQ: DEQ provided the attached written report.

TJWRPF: Mr. Thompson noted that the Foundation Board of Directors has been invited to the holiday meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

Ms. Coates thanked those who donated items for the VASWCD auction gift basket. She asked for any additional donations by Friday, November 30.

Ms. Moyer asked Board members to RSVP with their guest count for the holiday meeting by Friday, December 7.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mr. Murdoch encouraged retention of natural growth where possible, rather than organized plantings.

Mr. Tingley requested permission to explore a pilot program on the use of agriculture for carbon sequestration. Directors discussed potential members for a committee effort.

MOTION: *Mr. Tingley moved to authorize staff time to investigate a program regarding agricultural and land use carbon sequestration. Mr. Murray seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.***

Mr. Murray reported that he attended a town hall meeting with local legislators. Mr. Murray suggested reaching out to Creigh Deeds, who proposed a bill for DEQ to authorize stop work orders. Mr. Murray sits on the Noxious Weeds Committee, and they suggest removing Ailanthus to prevent the spread of the spotted lanternfly.

Mr. Meeks reported that Area II needs a vice chair candidate. TJSWCD will mark its 80th birthday on January 21, 2019; this District was the second formed in the state.

Mr. Pratley shared that he is trying to obtain a copy of The Nature Conservancy's report on steep-slope pipeline construction.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____
Chair