

THOMAS JEFFERSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
February 27, 2019

Present:

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

Staff: Coates, Hyatt, Longanecker, Moyer, Talley

Agencies: Cross (DCR), Powell (DOF), Kirkland (NRCS)

Guests: Stephen Lucas, Logan Tweardy

Absent:

Directors: Easter, Thompson, Wagner, McGoff (Associate Director)

Staff: DaMitz, Eiserman, Gyurisin

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS: Mr. Pratley introduced guest Logan Tweardy, of Fluvanna County. Mr. Tweardy spoke regarding his conservation and farming background and his interest in serving as an Associate Director.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ACTION ITEMS:

Directors Meeting Minutes:

MOTION:** Mr. Murray moved to approve the Directors Meeting Minutes for January 30, 2019. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.

Agriculture Committee Report:

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

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

Ms. Hyatt shared updates on the equine grant. Staff is finishing site visits and working on final plans and designs. March 29 is the application deadline for consideration at the April meeting.

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*). Discussion ensued regarding outreach strategies to expend the Hardware TMDL funding before the deadline of December 31, 2019. Mr. Murray noted the need for programs that address farm estates, and new VCAP and

ACAP funding may address some issues. Ms. Coates commented that it is precedent-setting that the state is funding urban BMPs, but funding for participation on the VCAP Steering Committee will be discontinued.

MOTION:** Mr. Collins moved to approve the Water Resources Committee report. Ms. Swanson seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.

Finance/Budget Committee:

Mr. Tingley reported that staff prepared the financial statements this month. The committee reviewed the financial statements and recommends approval. Year-to-date revenues and expenditures are tracking well with the budget.

MOTION:** Mr. Campbell moved to approve the Finance/Budget Committee report. Ms. Swanson seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.

Dam Committee:

Mr. Talley reported that he spoke with Bander Smith, the bidder on the two dam projects. They are looking at a June start. DCR approved an increase on the mid-level gate repair funding. The next step is to prepare a contract for approval.

Ms. Coates stated the amounts are \$62,000 for South Anna Dam #23 and \$10,000 for Little River Dam #4, for a total of \$72,000, and Bander Smith will do both projects. Mr. Talley will obtain pricing for surveying and replacing the dam gauges.

Mr. Pratley asked about the funding for dam monitoring. Ms. Cross replied that the House and the Senate agreed on \$400,000 for remote monitoring of District flood control dams, which will provide some funding for high and significant hazard dams. Ms. Coates stated that the District owns four high hazard dams, and DCR used an estimate of \$10,000 per dam but may be able to negotiate a lower price per dam when contracting in bulk. Ms. Cross noted that the remote monitoring systems will have ongoing maintenance needs.

Mr. Talley reported that DCR District Dam Engineer Charles Wilson will do three dam inspections on March 12. Mr. Pratley encouraged further communication with Louisa County on dam emergency response planning and regulation of development within inundation zones. Mr. Tingley asked staff to make sure that the dam inundation zones are included on county maps. Mr. Lucas related that much of the downstream area is protected by conservation easements for the Green Springs National Historic Landmark District. Mr. Talley noted that the inundation map data is available in DSIS, and the county should have access to that. Mr. Pratley inquired about upstream development, such as the Spring Creek subdivision.

Mr. Murray asked about dam dredging needs. Mr. Talley replied that DCR is analyzing that now, as it performs evaluations of gate valve operation. Ms. Cross added that gate valve repairs may be another area where DCR is looking for economy of scale.

Legislative Committee:

Ms. Cross reported that the General Assembly approved moving \$72.8 million in surplus to the Water Quality Improvement Fund for the agricultural BMP program. She anticipated that TA funding will be split over two or three years. The General Assembly also approved \$1 million for urban BMPs under

VCAP. Ms. Cross said this is the first time that state funding will go to urban BMPs, which has been an Area II Legislative Agenda request for many years. Other approvals were \$400,000 for remote dam monitoring and \$7.2 million for level funding of District operations. Unfunded requests included the equine program position.

Mr. Meeks remarked that some Districts expressed concern about where the \$1 million for VCAP came from, and it did not come at the expense of any agricultural BMP program. The urban BMP funding is a new and separate pot of money, and this is the largest appropriation for agricultural BMPs in program history.

Mr. Pratley noted the passage of a resolution commending Mr. Meeks for his service to Virginia's Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Transfer Agreement for Contract Nos. 02-19-0065 and 02-19-0066:

Mr. Longanecker explained that Edward Embrey passed away earlier this month. Mr. Embrey had two cost-share contracts about halfway through construction. His son Mark Embrey has requested transfer of the contracts to his name. DCR requires that the transfer agreement be approved by the Board of Directors.

MOTION:** Mr. Meeks moved to approve the transfer agreement for contract nos. 02-19-0065 and 02-19-0066. Mr. Murray seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.

Retiree Health Insurance Coverage:

Ms. Moyer related that the District has the option through The Local Choice Health Benefits Program to offer health insurance coverage to retirees. The retirees pay directly for the coverage. Participation requires a resolution by the Board of Directors.

Mr. Longanecker asked about minimum service requirements. Ms. Moyer replied the minimum service requirement to qualify is five years.

Ms. Coates stated that staff will prepare the resolutions for consideration at the March meeting if the Board is interested in pursuing this. Ms. Moyer noted that a decision would need to be made by April 1 to go into effect for the next plan year starting July 1.

MOTION:** Mr. Murray moved that staff pursue that option. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan Review:

Mr. Pratley confirmed that Directors had the opportunity to review the Strategic Plan. No changes were offered.

MOTION:** Mr. Meeks moved to approve the Strategic Plan review. Mr. Collins seconded the motion, and **the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Coates reported on options for facilitators for the next five-year plan process.

JRA Contract:

Mr. Longanecker reported that JRA received a VEE grant for buffer planting in the Middle James, and the proposed contract is to compensate the District for staff time assisting with this project. The contract is currently under legal review.

Director Emails:

Ms. Moyer will set up organizational email addresses for all Directors for publication on the website and the VASWCD Membership Directory. Ms. Moyer and Ms. Coates briefly reviewed records retention requirements. Mr. Murray prefers that the website use contact forms rather than email addresses.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Committee Minutes: Budget/Finance Committee 1-30-2019; Water Resources Committee 1-30-2019; and Agriculture Committee 2-27-2019.

Consent Items:

Agriculture Practices

Last Name / Business	Contract #	Instance	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share	Potential Tax Credit	Final Tax Credit	Conservation Plan Approval
Campolieto	02-19-0106	333237	SL-6	\$15,290.86	\$955.68		2/27/2019
Clark	02-19-0107	333238	SL-1	\$27,000.00	\$250.00		2/27/2019
Collins	02-18-0003	281878	LE-1T			\$1,107.96	
Swift Run LLC	02-19-0112	333265	SL-6	\$55,565.97	\$3,472.87		2/27/2019
Fitzgerald (NRCS Conservation Plan)							2/27/2019
	02-19-0113	333283	RMP-2	\$375			
	02-19-0113	333285	RMP-2	\$140			
Project Increases				Increase Amount			
White	02-19-0012	319454	SL-9	\$1,247.02	\$2,390.66		
Morningstar Farm	02-19-0063	327852	SL-6	\$1,600			

Septic Practices

Last Name / Business	Contract #	Instance	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share
Price	02-19-0108	333525	RB-4	\$5,200.00
Overby	02-19-0105	333101	RB-4	\$4,000.00
Tillman	02-19-0110	333258	RB-1	\$150.00
Seaberry	02-19-0111	333261	RB-1	\$150.00

Barley	02-19-0109	333255	RB-1	\$150.00
Project Increases				Increase Amount
Critzer	02-18-0236	304285	RB-1	\$225.00
Brantley	02-19-0091	331639	RB-4P	\$1,200.00

Urban (VCAP/CCAP) practices

Last Name / Business	Contract #	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share
Ochs	02-19-002	CL	\$2508.10

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

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS:

DCR: Ms. Cross summarized information from her monthly report and highlighted upcoming meetings (*see attached report for details*). Third quarter disbursements have been received. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board will begin deliberations on suggested changes to the agricultural BMP program at its March 20 meeting, with approval of the new manual in April or May. Ms. Cross reviewed the planned agenda for the Area II Spring Meeting, noting that the required COIA training will be offered. June 11 is the filing deadline for the November elections.

NRCS: Mr. Kirkland reported that new rules are coming down from the new farm bill, delaying allocations until later in the fiscal year.

VCE: Ms. Swanson provided updates on staffing levels.

DEQ: DEQ provided the attached written report.

DOF: Mr. Powell reported that DOF received \$750,000 in VEE grant funding for the Middle James buffer restoration, as a complement to the JRA work. DOF leveraged this funding with \$250,000 in agency money. In addition to tree planting, they have goals for additional BMP work and hope to develop outreach methods that enable participation by landowners who have not been reached by other programs. DOF will provide technical assistance and serve as the general contractor for procurement for the planting projects they manage, with a goal of 700 acres of riparian buffers.

STAFF REPORTS:

Ms. Coates gave an update on office relocation options. The current lease runs through June 2020. Ms. Coates reported that Mr. Murray and staff members have been working with the Piedmont Native Plants group on plans for updating the native plant guide, as they are down to the last ten cases from the last printing, and PEC has taken the lead on making this part of a larger regional effort. Ms. Coates asked Directors who plan to attend the Area II Spring Meeting to email Ms. Moyer to confirm by Friday, March 1, to meet the registration deadline. Ms. Coates shared informational slides from her recent budget

presentation to the Louisa County Board of Supervisors and thanked staff members for their help in preparing the presentation.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mr. Murray spoke regarding the Virginia Native Plants Partnership, which includes partner agencies with their own area guides.

Mr. Collins reported on his attendance at a meeting in Buckingham County concerning the Union Hill compressor station.

Mr. Murdoch reported that RCA is open to helping with water testing in Columbia.

Mr. Meeks reported on his attendance at the NACD meeting last month. The VASWCD Educational Foundation golf tournament will be held May 1.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____
Chair