

THOMAS JEFFERSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
July 29, 2020

Remote Participants:

Directors: Pratley (Chair), Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murdoch, Swanson, Thompson

Assoc. Directors: Bartz (joined at 10:05 a.m.), Daughters, Merle-Smith (joined at 10:07 a.m.), Tingley

Staff: Coates, Gyurisin (joined at 11:05 a.m.), Hyatt, Longanecker, Moyer

Agencies: Cross (DCR)

Guests: Julie Jones

Absent:

Directors: Murray, Willis

Assoc. Directors: Cowger, Tweardy

The Board of Directors convened a decentralized meeting via Zoom due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Pratley called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Pratley called the roll to confirm a quorum of Directors. Attendance was confirmed as listed above.

Motion to Conduct Electronic Meeting:

Mr. Pratley explained the necessary determination for the meeting to proceed.

MOTION: Mr. Thompson moved that the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors certify that the nature of the state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as declared by the Governor of Virginia, makes it impracticable or unsafe for the Board to assemble in a single physical location, and further that the purpose of the meeting, including all agenda items as reflected in the meeting's prepared agenda, is to transact or discuss business that is statutorily required or that is necessary to continue operations of the Board and the discharge of the Board's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson

Nays: None

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS: Mr. Pratley welcomed Julie Jones, a candidate for the City of Charlottesville vacancy on the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Pratley noted that the City of Charlottesville passed an ordinance on wearing masks in public spaces, in response to the pandemic, and the ordinance applies to the District office. Ms. Coates gave an overview of mask requirements, sign-in procedures, and other office policies adopted as precautionary measures for staff and the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Pratley asked if any comments were received from the public. Ms. Moyer confirmed that no public comments were submitted.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA: None.

ACTION ITEMS:

Directors Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Lucas moved to approve the Directors Meeting Minutes for June 24, 2020, as presented. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None

Agriculture Committee Report:

Mr. Thompson reviewed the list of actions and projects he approved under delegated authority (see ratification agenda for details). Mr. Longanecker explained that a number of project increases were needed as they wrapped up FY20.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Pratley spoke to the delegated authority and ratification agenda process in use during this constrained mode of operation.

MOTION: Mr. Lucas moved to approve and accept the Agriculture Committee report. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0, with one abstention, by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None
Abstain: Easter

Water Resources Committee Report:

Mr. Thompson shared highlights from Mr. Gyurisin's recent email update to the committee. Mr. Thompson encouraged Directors to look at the link to VaULT (Virginia's United Land Trusts).

Ms. Hyatt shared updates on the septic program. The District-wide septic program ended June 30 with no news from DEQ on additional funding at this time. Most of the Tye septic funding has been allocated, and they are looking at reapplying for additional agriculture and septic funding in the new funding round. All septic funding has been allocated for the Hardware program.

Mr. Meeks asked that Mr. Gyurisin's email update be forwarded to the full Board.

MOTION: Mr. Meeks moved to approve the Water Resources Committee report. Mr. Murdoch seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None

Budget/Finance Committee Report:

Mr. Meeks reported that the Budget/Finance Committee reviewed June 2020 financial statements, recommended approval of FY21 dedicated reserves, and reviewed the revised Desktop Procedures. Mr. Meeks noted the new requirement for Directors to take FOIA training.

MOTION: Mr. Thompson moved to accept the treasurer's report and financial statements for June 2020. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None

MOTION: Mr. Lucas moved to approved the dedicated reserves allocations for FY21. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None

MOTION: Mr. Meeks moved to affirm that the Board has reviewed the Desktop Procedures for this year. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None

Climate Committee Report:

Mr. Thompson summarized the Climate Committee meeting, focusing on development of a suggestion for the Area II legislative agenda regarding establishment of the Virginia Healthy Soils Program. Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Bartz and Mr. Tingley for their efforts in drafting the proposal.

Ms. Coates spoke to her involvement with the North Carolina carbon farm planning pilot. Ms. Coates noted that DEQ's analysis of using COMET-Planner to calculate climate benefits for practices should provide helpful information for locality reports.

MOTION: Mr. Murdoch moved to approve the Climate Committee report. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None

Legislative Committee Report:

Mr. Campbell outlined the legislative agenda he prepared based on last year's items and input from the Legislative Committee and the Climate Committee. Topics included level funding for agricultural BMP cost-share programs, expanded septic cost-share programs to meet WIP needs, continued support of VCAP and urban cost-share programs, dam repair funding, full funding of remote dam monitoring, and establishment of the Virginia Healthy Soils Program. The Area II legislative agenda conference call is August 5.

MOTION: Mr. Thompson moved to approve the Legislative Committee report. Mr. Lucas seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None

Dam Committee Report:

Mr. Lucas reported that the new dam mowing contractor is doing an excellent job. Mr. Merle-Smith concurred.

Mr. Lucas noted that they have four monitors for the dams along Route 15 but need to get the other dams monitored, and the additional funding that the Legislative Committee requested is essential to keep these dams safe.

MOTION: Mr. Meeks moved to adopt the Dam Committee report. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson

Nays: None

Charlottesville Director Position:

Mr. Pratley noted that Navarre Bartz resigned his Charlottesville Director position effective July 7, 2020, due to moving outside of the City limits, and Julie Jones has expressed interest in the position.

Ms. Jones spoke regarding her background and interest in serving as a Director.

Staff confirmed that no other candidates applied.

MOTION: Mr. Meeks moved to nominate Julie Jones to fill the vacant City of Charlottesville Director position and submit this nomination to the Soil and Water Conservation Board. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson

Nays: None

Ms. Cross will work with Ms. Moyer and Ms. Coates to prepare the submission for the next Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Committee Minutes:** Budget/Finance Committee (6-16-2020 and 7-24-2020); Climate Committee (7-14-2020); Secluded Committee (1-29-2020)

MOTION: Mr. Meeks moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mr. Lucas seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson

Nays: None

RATIFICATION AGENDA:

1. **Ratification List:** Personnel and Operations Committee; Agriculture Committee; Legislative Committee

Ratification Agenda												
Item	Committee	Delegated Authority	Topic/Details									Date Approved by DA
1	Pers/Ops	Tom Pratley	Hardware Contract Modification #3 June 5, 2020									7/27/2020
2	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	James River Association Letter of Support									7/8/2020
3	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	FY2020 Carryover Report									6/23/2020
4	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	FY2020 Revised Carryover Report									7/23/2020
5	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	FY2021 Ag. Cost List									7/23/2020
6	Legislative	Mark Campbell	TJSWCD Legislative Agenda									7/17/2020
				Last Name / Business	Contract #	Instance	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share	Potential Tax Credit	Final Tax Credit	Conservation Plan Approval	
7	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	Project Approval	Old Mountain Farm	02-09-0039	70442	SL-6	\$62,152.00	\$2,742.00		Yes	6/23/2020
8	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	Project Increase	C.E. Stevens Estate	02-15-0399	216408	SL-6	\$ 6,000.00			n/a	6/23/2020
9	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	Project Increase	George Lunsford	02-15-0371	220719	SL-6W 50'	\$48,182.50			n/a	6/23/2020
10	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	Project Increase	Norfields Farm	02-19-0096	332255	WP-4	\$ 307.12			n/a	6/24/2020
11	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	Project Increase	Clover Green Farm	02-20-0012	362223	SL-6W	\$ 3,000.00			n/a	6/25/2020
12	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	Project Increase	Martinez	02-20-0050	375137	FR-3	\$ 470.32			n/a	6/25/2020
13	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	Project Increase	Easter	02-20-0100	380198	CCI-SL-6W	\$ 250.00			n/a	6/25/2020
14	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	Project Increase	Saunders Brothers	02-15-0408	332139	SL-6	\$10,000.00			n/a	7/13/2020
15	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	Project Increase	Lunsford	02-15-0371	220719	SL-6	\$20,000.00			n/a	7/13/2020
16	Agriculture	Joe Thompson	Project Approval	Johnson	02-21-0002	394688	CCI-SL-6W	\$ 1,006.25			n/a	7/23/2020

MOTION: Mr. Meeks moved to approve the Ratification Agenda. Mr. Collins seconded the motion.

The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson

Nays: None

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS:

DCR: Ms. Cross summarized information from her monthly written report and shared other items of interest. She highlighted the new FOIA training requirement and the Area II legislative call. She expressed appreciation for District staff's work to complete end-of-year reporting.

Mr. Pratley asked about the upcoming VACDE training. Ms. Hyatt shared that VACDE is considering moving the training to a virtual platform.

NRCS: No updates.

VCE: Ms. Swanson reported that VCE staff is working remotely. The Albemarle office will reopen to the public on August 3.

DEQ: DEQ provided the attached written report.

FSA: FSA provided the attached written report.

TJWRPF: No updates.

STAFF REPORTS:

Ms. Coates called attention to the staff newsletter and noted that Ms. Hyatt is compiling information for the annual report. Ms. Coates has been notified that the District received the NACD grant, which will be extended to two years. Ms. Coates plans to bring the annual work plan to the August meeting. District staff continue to explore additional grant opportunities. Ms. Coates spoke to her involvement with a group trying to roll out COMET-Planner on a nationwide level. Policy manual updates are planned for September or October.

Mr. Pratley noted the site visit log.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mr. Pratley asked if Mr. Meeks would like an item added to partner reports for NACD or VASWCD, rather than sharing those updates under Director reports. Mr. Meeks said he was open to either.

Mr. Meeks related that VASWCD is meeting now, and discussion of the annual meeting was planned. NACD had a Zoom meeting last week in place of the summer board meeting. NACD still plans on the New Orleans annual meeting in February but should make a final decision by November.

Mr. Thompson thanked Ms. Jones for her willingness to join the Board. Mr. Thompson expressed appreciation for staff’s work in carrying out the District’s programs and mission.

Mr. Pratley thanked everyone for their patience and work during this difficult situation.

Mr. Merle-Smith noted Rex Murphy’s passing.

Mr. Collins noted the cancelation of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson

Nays: None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Submitted by: _____
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____
Chair