

**THOMAS JEFFERSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 16, 2020**

**Remote Participants:**

*Directors:* Pratley (Chair), Campbell, Collins, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murdoch (joined at 11:00 a.m.), Murray, Swanson, Thompson

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

*Staff:* Coates, DaMitz, Eiserman, Gyurisin, Hyatt, Longanecker, Moyer, Talley (present as needed)

*Agencies:* Cross (DCR), Kirkland (NRCS)

*Guests:* Rob Harrison, Bill Morris

**Absent:**

*Assoc. Directors:* 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 10:04 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Ms. Moyer called the roll to confirm a quorum of Directors. Attendance was confirmed as listed above.

**Motion to Conduct Electronic Meeting:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Lucas 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. Ms. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murdoch

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Ms. Coates shared information about the COVID-19 workplace safety training required by VOSH. Mr. Pratley noted the *ConserveVirginia* listening session scheduled for December 17.

**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. Meeks moved to approve the Directors Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2020, as presented. Mr. Murray seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Campbell, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson  
Nays: None  
Not Voting: Collins  
Absent: Murdoch

**Nominating Committee:** Mr. Easter and Mr. Murray volunteered to serve.

**Budget/Finance Committee Report:**

Mr. Meeks reported that the Budget/Finance Committee did not meet this month. November 2020 financial statements are included in the Board packet.

***MOTION:*** Mr. Meeks moved to accept the financial statements for November 2020. Mr. Lucas seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:  
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson  
Nays: None  
Absent: Murdoch

**Agriculture Committee Report:**

Mr. Thompson summarized the Agriculture Committee meeting and reviewed projects and increases recommended for approval (*see attached minutes and reports for details*). Ms. Coates shared an update on the RCPP grant application to expand bundled practices and the whole-farm approach. Ms. Coates related that the NACD grant will be extended to two years with additional CSP funding if the MOU is approved by the Board. Mr. Thompson reported that the District applied for and received an extension on the Hardware TMDL DEQ grant. Mr. Longanecker gave an overview of the DCR TAC process. Mr. Thompson explained the need for delegated authority to approve tax credits that must be submitted by the end of the calendar year.

***Tax Credits – End-of-Year Delegated Authority:***

***MOTION:*** Mr. Meeks moved to approve Mr. Thompson having delegated authority to the end of the year to take action on tax credits. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:  
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson  
Nays: None  
Absent: Murdoch

***NACD Grant – Approve MOU:***

***MOTION:*** Mr. Meeks moved to approve the memorandum of agreement with NACD for technical assistance funding. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:  
Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson  
Nays: None  
Absent: Murdoch

*Variance for SL-6W Stream Exclusion/Wide Width Buffer – Cherry Hill/Nelson County (Contract No. 02-21-0044):*

**MOTION:** Mr. Meeks moved to approve the variance. Mr. Lucas seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murdoch

**MOTION:** Mr. Lucas moved to adopt the Agriculture Committee report. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murdoch

### **Water Resources Committee Report:**

Mr. Murray called attention to the project approved by delegated authority and listed on the ratification agenda.

Mr. Murray and Mr. Thompson shared comments regarding the Rosenblum easement and the adjacent proposed Slabtown Meadow development. The landowner whose property is under easement with TJSWCD has expressed concern regarding this proposed development and the potential water quality impacts. Mr. Murray noted that the area is under the Albemarle County water protection ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding the development review process and the best manner to provide appropriate input. Mr. Murray and Mr. Thompson would like provide any information requested by Albemarle County and raise awareness of potential stream impacts due to the density of the development. Mr. Murray noted that there may be timing issues in bringing a formal letter to the Board of Directors for approval prior to project consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Pratley said Mr. Murray can use delegated authority to send a letter regarding issues under the purview of the Water Resources Committee. Mr. Thompson asked to send a letter to the County asking to be kept in the loop as the project moves forward. Mr. Murray will draft the letter with Mr. Thompson's assistance.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thompson moved to send a letter to Albemarle County in the nature described. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murdoch

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Committee Minutes:** Agriculture Committee (12-8-20)
2. **Consent Items:** Agriculture Cost Share and Tax Credits (see attached list)

**Consent Agenda 12.16.2020 (Agriculture Practices)**

Last Name/Business	Contract Number	Instance	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share	Potential Tax Credit	Final Tax Credit	Conservation Plan Approval
Haney	02-20-0131	384371	WP-2N	-	-	\$ 63.08	
Johnson	02-20-0206	390002	SL-7	-	-	\$ 707.32	
Levine	02-20-0093	332193	LE-2	-	-	\$ 2,026.85	
Martinez	02-20-0050	375138	FR-1	-	-	\$ 499.69	
Watkins	02-20-0101	380226	SL-7	-	-	\$ 865.10	
Abell Brothers	02-19-0024	323329	SL-1	-	-	\$ 13.01	
Abell Brothers	02-19-0024	323337	SL-1	-	-	\$ 12.57	
Abell Brothers	02-19-0134	336242	SL-1	-	-	\$ 17.01	
Claybrooke Farm LLC	02-19-0062	327821	SL-1	-	-	\$ 98.48	Yes
Elk Creek Farm LLC	02-19-0119	334285	SL-1	-	-	\$ 480.82	
Grandview Cattle LLC	02-19-0114	334084	SL-6	-	-	\$ 902.24	
Norfields Farm	02-19-0096	332255	WP-4	-	-	\$ 1,956.68	
Quaker Hill	02-19-0115	334085	SL-1	-	-	\$ 244.96	
Quaker Hill	02-19-0115	334267	SL-1	-	-	\$ 144.89	
Riverview Farms Cattle, LLC	02-21-0048	418785	SL-1	-	-	\$ 96.09	
Riverview Farms Cattle, LLC	02-21-0048	418787	SL-1	-	-	\$ 95.47	
Swift Run Farm LLC	02-19-0112	333265	SL-6	-	-	\$ 4,016.43	
Swift Run Farm LLC	02-20-0094	379861	SL-7	-	-	\$ 225.00	
Troxell Farms Inc	02-19-0135	336275	SL-1	-	-	\$ 104.69	
Old Mountain Farm	02-09-0039	70442	SL-6	-	-	\$ 3,864.29	
Goodwin	02-21-0058	421646	SL-1	\$ 11,873.75	\$ 645.31	-	Yes
Teel/Clover Green Farm	02-21-0059	421841	SL-6N	\$ 1,572.00	\$ 262.00	-	Yes
Teel/Clover Green Farm	02-21-0059	421840	SL-6W	\$ 22,651.35	\$ 669.91	-	Yes
Teel/Clover Green Farm	02-21-0059	421839	SL-7	\$ 5,918.93	\$ 493.24	-	Yes
Teel/Clover Green Farm	02-21-0060	421895	SL-6W	\$ 29,361.31	\$ 918.88	-	Yes
Teel/Clover Green Farm	02-21-0060	421906	WP-2N	\$ 5,534.40	\$ 922.40	-	Yes
Buttrick	02-21-0061	421976	SL-6W	\$ 89,265.46	-	-	Yes
Wagner	02-21-0062	422043	SL-1	\$ 10,023.75	-	-	Yes
<b>Increases</b>							
Teel	02-20-0012	362223	SL-6W	\$ 826.17			
Fletcher	EQ-20-0019	n/a	Compost Facility	\$ 2,373.14			
UVA Polo	EQ-20-0019	n/a	Laneway, Diversions	\$ 3,150.00			

**MOTION:** Mr. Murray moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Meeks seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murdoch

**RATIFICATION AGENDA:**

- Ratification List:** Water Resources Committee; Personnel/Operations Committee

<b>Ratification Agenda - December 16, 2020</b>											
Item	Delegated Authority	Last Name / Business	Contract #	Instance	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share	Potential Tax Credit	Final Tax Credit	Conservation Plan Approval	Approval Date	
<b>Water Resources Committee</b>											
1	Murray	Evans	02-21-0063	422117	RB-1	\$280.00	-	-	-	12/10/2020	
<b>Personnel/Operations Committee</b>											
2	Pratley	Hardware TMDL	Modification #4				Extension			11/24/2020	

**MOTION:** Mr. Thompson moved to adopt the Ratification Agenda. Mr. Meeks seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:  
 Ayes: Campbell, Collins, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: Murdoch

**GUEST INTRODUCTIONS and AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

**Clean Farm Award Winners:**

Mr. Longanecker welcomed Bill Morris of Elk Creek Farm and Rob Harrison of Harrison Cattle Company.

Mr. Talley shared a presentation highlighting conservation projects at Elk Creek Farm, which has 190 cow-calf pairs on 400 acres in Louisa. Mr. Talley noted that they created 6.3 miles of stream bank exclusion and Lake Anna shoreline protection, with 121 acres of exclusion, rotational grazing, pollinator habitat, riparian buffer planting, and forest management. Elk Creek Farm won the York River Clean Water Farm Award and Grand Basin Award. Mr. Morris spoke regarding the history of the farm, noting that its founder Lewis Chisholm was a former TJSWCD Director. Mr. Morris responded to questions and invited Directors to visit the farm.

Mr. Longanecker shared a presentation highlighting conservation projects by Harrison Cattle Company, which has 270 cow-calf pairs on over 700 acres of rented land in Albemarle, Fluvanna, and Louisa. Mr. Longanecker complimented Mr. Harrison’s management and grazing practices. A unique plan was created for each property that improves water quality as well as pasture management and the overall operation. Mr. Longanecker noted that Harrison Cattle typically produces 40,000 to 50,000 pounds of beef annually from start to finish, and Mr. Harrison also actively volunteers with several local organizations. A video interview and farm tour were shared by email prior to the meeting. Harrison Cattle Company won the James River Clean Water Farm Award. Mr. Harrison commented that it has been great to work with District and NRCS staff. Mr. Harrison then responded to questions.

Mr. Campbell left the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Ms. Swanson left the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Ms. Jones left the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

**COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS:**

**DCR:** Ms. Cross summarized information from her monthly written report and shared other items of interest. She noted the required FOIA training for Directors and other upcoming meetings and training opportunities.

**NRCS:** Mr. Kirkland reported that the EQIP application deadline is December 18, with ranking and pre-approvals anticipated at the end of January. They are working on CSP reenrollments.

Ms. Coates thanked Kory Kirkland and Dana Bayless for assistance with the revised NACD grant proposal and the RCPP grant application. The NRCS report to VASWCD is included in the Board packet for additional information.

**VCE:** Mr. Pratley related that he received notice of a well-water testing clinic in Fluvanna in February.

**DEQ:** DEQ provided a written report.

**FSA:** No updates.

**TJWRPF:** No updates.

**VASWCD/NACD:** Mr. Meeks encouraged Directors to register for the VASWCD partner agency update panel on January 6. Ms. Coates and Mr. Bartz shared updates on consideration of the soil health proposal.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Ms. Coates called attention to the monthly site visit report and staff newsletter in the Board packet. She recognized Ms. Hyatt for winning the Chaffin Soil and Water Conservation District Employee of the Year Award and noted Ms. Hyatt's work on the marketing toolkit and chairing the VASWCD Marketing Committee. Ms. Coates recognized Mr. Meeks for winning the Wilkinson Outstanding Director Award and service pin for 30 years of service. Ms. Coates related that TJSWCD will contribute funding towards a three-day VASWCD training on video production. She also noted the education program update included in the Board packet. Work on the strategic plan will resume in January, with completion by June. Ms. Eiserman will be working part-time starting January 1.

Mr. Gyurisin encouraged Directors to complete the VCAP public feedback form by December 31.

**DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

Mr. Lucas offered to send additional information on the Rosenblum easement.

Mr. Pratley noted the passing of Paul Coleman of C-Stock Farm. Mr. Meeks shared additional remarks on Mr. Coleman's conservation contributions.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Lucas moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Not Voting: Murdoch

Absent: Campbell, Jones, Swanson

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Recording Secretary*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chair*