

**THOMAS JEFFERSON SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2021**

Remote Participants:

Directors: Pratley (Chair), Collins (joined at 10:20 a.m.), Daughters, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murdoch (joined at 11:53 a.m.), Murray, Swanson, Thompson

Assoc. Directors: Cowger, Merle-Smith, Tingley

Staff: Coates, Hyatt, Longanecker, Moyer, Talley

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

Guests: Mark Wastler

Absent:

Directors: Campbell

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 10:02 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 City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle, 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. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Daughters, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson

Nays: None

Absent: Collins, Murdoch

GUESTS: Mr. Thompson introduced Mark Wastler, a potential Foundation Board member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

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. Thompson moved to approve the Directors Meeting Minutes for September 29, 2021, as corrected. Ms. Daughters seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Daughters, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None
Absent: Collins, Murdoch

Water Resources Committee Report:

Septic Contract No. 02-21-0006 – Inaccurate Payment Outside Tye River Watershed TMDL:
Mr. Murray reported that the Water Resources Committee discussed a mistake where a septic payment was made on a contract that was outside the Tye River Watershed. The Committee talked about procedural changes to prevent this in future and recommended that the Budget/Finance Committee authorize \$3,795 to cover the cost of this contract.

Mr. Meeks related that the Budget/Finance Committee was unanimous in support of payment for this project.

MOTION: Mr. Meeks moved to approve payment of \$3,795 for this septic project. Mr. Lucas seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Daughters, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None
Absent: Collins, Murdoch

Mr. Murray reported that the Water Resources Committee discussed CAP approvals, which can be seen on the Consent Agenda.

Plant Northern Piedmont Natives Garden Liaison Project:

Mr. Murray reported that the Water Resources Committee considered a request from the Piedmont Natives partnership for funding for educational materials for local nurseries, to be paid from sales proceeds of native plant guides sold under a fiscal agent agreement with the partnership. Finding that there is sufficient funding to cover reprints and this request is consistent with the agreement, the Water Resources Committee recommended that the Budget/Finance Committee authorize \$1,500 for the Garden Liaison Project.

Mr. Meeks related that the Budget/Finance Committee was supportive of the Water Resources Committee's recommendation.

MOTION: Mr. Meeks moved to approve \$1,500 for the Piedmont Natives project. Ms. Daughters seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:
Ayes: Collins, Daughters, Easter, Jones, Lucas, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson
Nays: None
Absent: Murdoch

Mr. Murray related that the Water Resources Committee discussed the staff transitions for projects and thanked Mr. Gyurisin for the great work he has done for VCAP, CCAP, and ACAP. The Committee also discussed solar projects and possible merits of posting a model ordinance for localities.

MOTION: Mr. Thompson moved to accept the Water Resources Committee report. Mr. Meeks seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murdoch

Budget/Finance Committee Report:

Mr. Meeks reported that the Budget/Finance Committee reviewed the monthly financial reports. The Committee discussed payroll schedule changes and possible transition pay options, such as a one-time leave cash-out or payroll advance. The Committee discussed replacing the Louisa office copier and authorized staff to proceed with obtaining additional quotes. The Budget/Finance Committee also considered the Water Resources Committee's recommendations discussed earlier in this meeting.

Mr. Pratley asked if the Budget/Finance Committee recommended Board action on the transition pay options. Ms. Cross agreed that this would need Board action. Ms. Moyer replied yes, the intent is to bring back a written policy specifying the terms for such options.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements – September 2021:

MOTION: Ms. Daughters moved to accept the financial reports for September 2021. Mr. Murray seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murdoch

MOTION: Mr. Lucas to accept the Budget/Finance Committee report and recommendations. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murdoch

Agriculture Committee Report:

Mr. Thompson reported on the Agriculture Committee's review of projects that are included on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Thompson gave an overview of the Troxell project, a stream exclusion project with an intensive rotational grazing system; the Committee discussed this project at length before recommending approval. The Agriculture Committee also recommended approval of the Clonmel Acres project after discussion. The Committee recommended approval of two cover crop applications received after the sign-up deadline but did not consider a third because the applicant has not yet completed required remediation work for a Clean Water Act violation. The Agriculture Committee received updates on outreach plans and verifications. The next meeting will be December 1 at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murdoch

Foundation:

Recommendation to Albemarle County to Appoint New Director to TJWRPF:

Mr. Thompson noted that the Foundation Board includes representatives approved by the localities, and Mr. Wastler is interested in potentially being a representative from Albemarle County.

Mr. Wastler shared information regarding his farming experience, relevant work experience, and interest in land use, soil health, and water quality.

Mr. Pratley noted that Mr. Wastler has also expressed interest in serving an Associate Director on the District Board. Staff will inquire whether public meeting laws permit him to serve in both capacities.

MOTION: Mr. Thompson moved to nominate Mark Wastler to be submitted to Albemarle County as a new member for the Thomas Jefferson Water Resources Protection Foundation Board. Ms. Jones seconded the motion and thanked Mr. Wastler for his interest. The motion passed 10-0 by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Murdoch

Albemarle County Stream Health Initiative (SHI):

Ms. Coates summarized potential elements to include in a response to Albemarle County's inquiry regarding the impacts on the District if the County were to adopt the full Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. Much depends on the desired level of implementation, which is not currently known, but any level would require staff funding to provide these services. Another concern was the impact on existing practices installed with state funds that would not meet wider buffer requirements.

Mr. Pratley explained that this was a staff-to-staff inquiry and does not need a letter from this Board to the Board of Supervisors at this time.

Mr. Murray noted that CBPA is only one of many proposed stream health strategies, and there are others that do have financial impacts on the District. He asked to be copied on the email response.

Ms. Coates would like to highlight that the District is unable to fully assess the impacts due to the lack of definition of what implementation would look like, but given the information received from other SWCDs, this would more than likely be a full-time position because they do not have anyone currently funded that could do this work. Mr. Murray commented that possibly this FTE could handle some of the other proposed strategies as well, but CBPA may not be politically viable. Ms. Coates said County staff does not plan to recommend full adoption of CBPA.

Mr. Pratley noted that CBPA has a statutory role for SWCDs if adopted. Mr. Murray expected that if adopted, implementation could be modified similarly to what Albemarle County has done in its partial adoption of other CBPA provisions.

Mr. Thompson suggested that the reply include a statement that the District supports the County's efforts to improve their surface waters and is currently working to accomplish the same, and the District looks forward to working with the County in any new programs within fiscal and legal constraints, if appropriate financial support is provided and the District has capacity.

Directors further discussed concerns regarding the impact on existing practices and grandfathering, uncertainty regarding the implementation level and staffing needs, and the best way to indicate support for shared conservation goals while remaining neutral on CPBA. Ms. Coates offered to share a written draft with interested Directors.

MOTION: Mr. Lucas moved that interested Directors and Committee chairs work with Ms. Coates to draft a response to the County's request. Mr. Murray seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Collins, Daughters, Easter, Jones, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson

Nays: None

Not Voting: Lucas

Absent: Murdoch

Mr. Lucas lost connection to the meeting at this time.

Personnel/Operations Committee Report:

Update on Recruitment:

Ms. Coates reported that they will keep the recruitment open for more applications before pulling together an interview panel. Grazing and pasture management experience are a priority for this recruitment. She commented that some of the current applicants may be better suited for the VCAP and education position to be advertised soon.

Dam Committee Report:

Mr. Talley reported that Mr. Narehood is completing the fall dam mowing now. Dam owner inspections were rescheduled to next Wednesday because mowing was delayed due to weather.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Committee Minutes:** Agriculture Committee (10/19/2021), Water Resources Committee (10/26/2021)
2. **Consent Items:** Agriculture Cost-Share and Tax Credits, Water Resources Committee (see attached list)

CONSENT AGENDA (cont'd.)

10/27/2021

Agriculture Practices

Last Name / Business	Contract #	Instance	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share	Potential Tax Credit	Final Tax Credit	Conservation Plan Approval
Troxell	02-22-0054	465844	CCI-SL-6W	\$ 3,411.25	-	-	Yes
Troxell	02-22-0054	465843	SL-6W	\$ 48,622.06	\$ 1,909.80	-	Yes
Troxell	02-22-0054	465842	SL-7	\$ 4,685.21	\$ 390.44	-	Yes
Quaker Hill	02-22-0055	465851	SL-8H	\$ 606.00	-	-	-
Quaker Hill	02-22-0055	465852	SL-8H	\$ 336.00	-	-	-
Quaker Hill	02-22-0055	465853	SL-8H	\$ 452.00	-	-	-
Quaker Hill	02-22-0055	465854	SL-8H	\$ 254.00	-	-	-
Beasley	02-22-0056	465935	CCI-SL-6W	\$ 806.25	-	-	-
Beasley	02-22-0056	465855	SL-6W	\$ 19,469.88	\$ 811.91	-	Yes
Zaras	02-22-0057	465992	SL-7	\$ 2,993.63	\$ 249.47	-	Yes
Zaras	02-22-0057	465393	SL-6W	\$ 24,481.90	-	-	Yes
Clonmel Acres LLC	02-22-0058	466013	WP-2W	\$ 7,567.36	\$ 272.96	-	Yes
Pitsiokos	02-22-0059	466029	SL-6W	\$ 68,483.97	\$ 402.33	-	Yes
Mullen	02-22-0060	466041	SL-6W	\$ 34,041.75	-	-	-
Mullen	02-22-0060	466027	WP-2W	\$ 8,929.92	\$ 133.12	-	-
Mullen	02-22-0061	466052	CCI-SL-6W	\$ 1,975.00	-	-	-
Mullen	02-22-0062	466055	FR-1	\$ 11,568.90	\$ 844.08	-	-
Mullen	02-22-0063	466057	FR-3	\$ 8,060.00	-	-	-
Watkins	02-22-0064	466206	SL-6W	\$ 77,594.25	-	-	-
Attonce Cattle Ranch LLC	02-22-0065	466285	SL-8B	\$ 495.00	-	-	-
Attonce Cattle Ranch LLC	02-22-0065	466286	SL-8B	\$ 3,350.00	-	-	-
Wilson	02-22-0066	466314	SL-6W	\$ 54,161.00	-	-	Yes
Timmerman	02-22-0067	466365	CCI-SL-6W	\$ 8,737.50	-	-	-
Timmerman	02-22-0067	466368	CCI-SL-6N	\$ 855.00	-	-	-

Urban Practices

Last Name / Business	Contract #	Practice Code	Estimated Cost Share
Biasioli	02-21-018	CL-3	\$ 2,956.50
Catalano	02-21-019	PP	\$ 9,340.00
Birthisel	02-21-020	RWH	\$ 3,259.00
Curley	02-21-021	CL-3	\$ 2,302.50
Curley	02-21-022	VSC-DW	\$ 3,625.25
Scott	02-21-023	CL-3	\$ 1,089.59
Scott	02-21-024	RG	\$ 3,388.97
Arbelaez	02-21-025	CL-1	\$ 3,487.50
Rodgers	02-21-026	CL-3	\$ 3,500.00

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

Ayes: Collins, Daughters, Easter, Jones, Meeks, Murray, Pratley, Swanson, Thompson

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas, Murdoch

COOPERATING AGENCIES REPORTS:

DCR: Ms. Cross summarized information from her monthly written report (*see attached report for details*). She called attention to the required COIA training for Directors, Ms. Eiserman and Mr. Talley's certification as Certified Conservation Planners, Mr. Longanecker's recertification, buffer data corrections, end-of-lifespan verifications, DCR staffing updates, upcoming meetings and trainings, and VASWCD's plans for a virtual annual meeting.

Ms. Swanson left the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

NRCS: Mr. Kirkland provided an update on federal programs and upcoming deadlines. He noted that grazing-based applications are not competing well with animal waste applications. An easement application in Nelson County was selected for funding. Statewide CSP funds will be \$15 million this year, the highest allocation Virginia has received, but there is backlog of CSP applications waiting for funding. Additional financial assistance will be made available to participants affected by higher material costs.

Mr. Bayless shared staffing updates.

VCE: Ms. Swanson reported on spotted lantern fly reports.

DEQ: DEQ provided a written report.

FSA: No updates.

TJWRP Foundation: No updates.

VASWCD/NACD: Mr. Meeks shared updates from the TAC meeting last week and asked the Agriculture Committee to keep an eye out for the potential expansion of the whole farm approach. Mr. Meeks will be serving on a committee to work on the NRCS MOU. He also reported on his participation in the NACD executive board meeting as an alternate for the Southeast Region; a topic of particular interest was the impact of COVID vaccine requirements for NRCS contractors. He will forward the NACD dues invoice and attachment on the Mercer insurance program, as the original mailing was misdirected. NACD's annual meeting will be in person in February.

VSHC: Ms. Coates noted the email notification for the upcoming meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

Ms. Coates reported that she will be giving a presentation this evening to Friends of Nelson County regarding the climate benefits of agricultural practices. She shared updates on Ms. DaMitz's continued work to support the education program transition. A package mailbox has been installed outside the office.

Mr. Longanecker shared that Rob Harrison of Harrison Cattle Co., last year's local Clean Farm Award Winner, has won the James River Grand Basin Award for 2021.

DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Mr. Pratley thanked Mr. Gyuris for his service to the District and wished him well in future endeavors.

Mr. Thompson expressed appreciation for the agricultural program staff for doing a great job while working short-handed. He also thanked Ms. Abowd for her work in supporting the Foundation and Agriculture Committee.

Mr. Murdoch apologized for joining late.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the chair adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Recording Secretary

Approved: _____
Chair