

**Three Rivers Soil & Water Conservation District
Agriculture Committee
Minutes
September 20, 2022
8:00 a.m.
Rappahannock Office Building Conference Room**

Members & Staff Present

Keith Balderson, Chairman
Robert Bland
Thomas Fox
Robbie Longest
Bruce Taylor

Langdon Townsend
Michelle Carter, District Manager
Waring Baylor, Conservation Specialist
Sarah Cole, Conservation Coordinator

Others Present

Benjamin Ellis
Marissa Roland, DCR

Mr. Balderson, Chair, called the Agriculture Committee meeting to order.

Ms. Cole stated the remaining FY 22 VACS balance in the amount of \$11,445.61 was returned to DCR per protocol. The FY 22 VACS account balance is now zero.

Ms. Cole stated that the FY 23 VACS Cost-Share allocation is \$4,479,901.00. Total VACS Cost-Share sign up at this time totals \$7,385,587.55, comprised of \$6,933,913.50 in Whole Farm Approach programs and \$451,674.05 in all other VACS programs. Following TRSWCD Secondary Considerations, paying out NM-1A, SL-1, WP-1 and WFA-NM applications first leaves a balance of \$3,055,120.64, allowing 54.26% of the WFA-CC applications to be approved if previous practices were followed, with none of the no-till applications receiving approval.

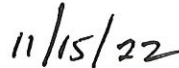
However, after having received email correspondence from DCR Director James Martin, Three Rivers SWCD has been reassured that "funding is available to wholly fund all of the WFA applications that are received during FY2023." As such, Ms. Cole requested permission from the Committee to rework the previous approval letters to include acreage amounts rather than monetary totals for the Whole Farm practices.

Questions from Mr. Fox and Mr. Townsend regarding changes from sign up to implementation, such as moving cover crop from one field to another, signing up additional acres following the close of the official signup period, and changes from corn to beans were asked and clarified.

There being no further business, the committee meeting was adjourned at 08:10. Supporting documentation is attached.



Keith Balderson, Committee Chair



Date



Sarah Cole, Conservation Coordinator



Date

THREE RIVERS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES
September 20, 2022
Rappahannock Office Building, Tappahannock, VA

Board Members Present:

Robert Bland, Chair

Langdon Townsend, Vice-Chair

Bruce Taylor, Secretary

Keith Balderson, Treasurer

Benjamin Ellis, Essex County

Robbie Longest, VCE

Thomas Fox, King William County

Three Rivers SWCD Staff Present:

Michelle Carter, District Manager

Waring Baylor, Conservation Specialist

Anne Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Sarah Cole, Conservation Coordinator

Agency Partners:

Marissa Roland, DCR

Courtne Ellis, FSA

Warren Coburn, DOF

Dwight Forrester, NRCS

Guest:

Sara Henley, King & Queen Co.

Libby Bieri, Friends of the Rappahannock

Brent Hunsinger, Friends of the Rappahannock

Call to Order

Mr. Bland, Chair, called the Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District monthly meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. in the Rappahannock Office Building Conference Room, Tappahannock, Virginia.

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Bland, Chair introduced the guests to the attendees of the meeting and thanked them for attending. Sara Henley is a resident of King & Queen County, Brent Hunsinger is the Tidal Programs Manager & State Policy Coordinator for the Friends of the Rappahannock and Libby Bieri is the Lower River Steward for the Friends of the Rappahannock.

Minutes of the Last Board of Directors Meeting

Mr. Taylor motioned to approve the August Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Balderson motioned to accept the August Treasurer's Report as presented and the report will be filed for audit. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Tire Amnesty Project Update – Robbie Longest, VCE

Mr. Longest stated he was still working on the Tire Amnesty Project but has not moved forward with planning a date due to the high cost of disposing the larger tires. He also stated he has not been able to secure having a tire shredder on site for the day.

District Operations – Michelle Carter, D.M.

Mrs. Carter stated Charlie Piersa, President of King William Farm Bureau has contacted her to discuss Three Rivers SWCD possibly assisting him with grant writing or monetary assistance on installing a greenhouse at King William High School.

Mrs. Carter presented a Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement (MOA) between the District and Friends of the Rappahannock relating to the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) in Essex County. Mr. Balderson motioned to approve the partnership MOA for the VCAP program between Three Rivers SWCD and Friends of the Rappahannock as presented. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mrs. Carter presented an Electronic Meeting Policy under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for Three Rivers SWCD. After some discussion, Mr. Balderson motioned to approve the Three Rivers SWCD Electronic Meeting Policy as presented. Mr. Longest seconded the motion and the motion carried.

District Technical Report – Sarah Cole and Waring Baylor

Ms. Cole advised a Conservation Plan has been written for Jared Keys who wishes to convert cropland into pasture (SL-1 practice). Mr. Balderson motioned to approve the Conservation Plan for Jared Keys as presented. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Cole reported on her presentation at the annual training for the Virginia Association of Conservation District Employees held at Graves Mountain Lodge. Ms. Cole was asked by DCR to participate in a panel regarding VACS file management. Ms. Cole presented to approximately 30 people in attendance and the presentation was well received.

The Ag Committee met on September 20, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. to discuss cost share applications for the Whole Farm Approach/VACS program and an email from James Martin, Director, DCR reassuring available funding “to wholly fund all of the WFA applications that are received during FY2023.” Following discussion, and based upon available funding, the Ag Committee recommends the following via Committee Chair, Keith Balderson: (All reports attached)

Mr. Ellis was asked to leave the meeting room. Mr. Balderson motioned to approve COIA application of FY 23 Contract Numbers 43-23-0127, 43-23-0128, 43-23-0129, and 43-23-0130 for Benjamin B. Ellis, Inc. and Benjamin B. Ellis, Jr. as presented. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mrs. Sara Henley was asked to leave the meeting room. Mr. Balderson motioned to approve COIA application of FY 23 Contract Numbers 43-23-0257, 43-23-0258, 43-23-0259, 43-23-0271, and 43-23-0272 for Hillsborough Farms Inc. and MTG Partners LLC as presented. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Taylor was asked to leave the meeting room. Mr. Balderson motioned to approve COIA application of FY 23 Contract Numbers 43-23-0097, 43-23-0100, 43-23-0101, 43-23-0181, 43-23-0182, and 43-23-0185 for HRF, Inc. and Adam C. Taylor as presented. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Townsend was asked to leave the meeting room. Mr. Balderson motioned to approve COIA application of FY 23 Contract Numbers 43-23-0102, 43-23-0103, and 43-23-0104 for Queenfield Farms as presented. Mr. Longest seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Bland was asked to leave the meeting room. Mr. Balderson motioned to approve COIA application of FY 23 Contract Numbers 43-23-0001 and 43-23-0002 for R.T. Bland, Inc. as presented. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Baylor was asked to leave the meeting room. Mr. Balderson motioned to approve COIA application of FY 23 Contract Numbers 43-23-0209 and 43-23-0210 for Robert W. Baylor, Jr. as presented. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Fox was asked to leave the meeting room. Mr. Balderson motioned to approve COIA application of FY 23 Contract Numbers 43-23-0164 and 43-23-0165 for Thomas H. Fox, Jr. as presented. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Balderson motioned to approve the FY23 VACS BMP Cost-Share Program Non-COIA applications as presented. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Balderson motioned to approve the new language of the updated approval letter for the Whole Farm Approach contracts for FY 23. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Baylor reported that following signup, he and Ms. Cole reviewed each producer's spreadsheet and added their planting rotation to those spreadsheets. The spreadsheets were then saved and forwarded to each TSP who writes for this District, ensuring that the TSPs have the same information as District Staff regarding producer signup. As producers made changes, updated emails were sent to TSPs.

Administrative Coordinator – Anne Davis

Mrs. Davis stated the Annual Meeting will be held on December 4 – December 6 at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, VA. A block of rooms has been reserved for the District. Directors must let Mrs. Davis know by November 1st if they plan to attend the meeting.

A live FOIA webinar training will be held Wednesday, October 12th at 10:00 a.m. All Directors must take a FOIA training by the end of this year to be in compliance with the Election Law Requirements. Once the training is completed, send a copy of your certificate to Mrs. Davis so she can forward to the county you reside in for compliance.

Agency Reports:

Marissa Roland, DCR – Gave an oral and written report. (Report Attached)
Warren Coburn, DOF – Gave an oral and written report. (Report Attached)
Courtne Ellis, FSA – Gave an oral report.
Dwight Forrester, NRCS – Gave an oral and written. (Report Attached)
Turner Minx/Christina Murray, VCE – Was unable to attend.

Closed Meeting:

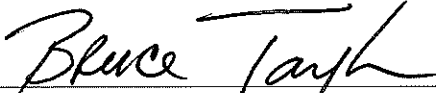
Mr. Balderson motioned that the Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District go into Closed Meeting in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss Computer & Office Equipment, office space lease and the Three Rivers SWCD Mini Grant applications. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Pursuant to the code of Virginia 2.2-3712(D), Mr. Balderson motioned to certify that, to the best of each members knowledge, only matters lawfully exempted and as identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard or discussed by the Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District during the Closed Meeting. Mr. Ellis seconded the motion and the motion carried.

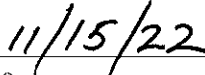
Mr. Townsend motioned to fund in the amount of \$8,029.96 to purchase an Epson Projector, QuickBooks second license, remote access to data via VPN, server for shared drive and labor for installation. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried. (Proposal Attached)

Mr. Ellis motioned to approve the Three Rivers SWCD Mini Grants as presented in the amount of \$6,557.97. Mr. Longest seconded the motion and the motion carried.

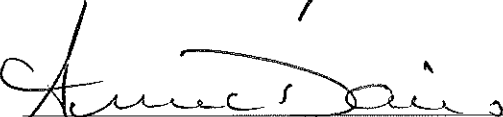
There being no further business, Mr. Bland, Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.



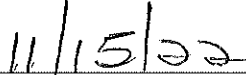
Bruce Taylor, Secretary



Date



Anne Davis, Administrative Coordinator



Date

Meeting Date: September 20, 2022

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Three Rivers Board of Directors has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, §2.23712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Three Rivers Board of Directors that a closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Three Rivers Board of Directors hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Three Rivers Board of Directors.

MOTION BY: Mr. Keith Balderson

SECOND BY: Mr. Benjamin Ellis


VOTES

AYES: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSENT DURING VOTE:

ABSENT DURING MEETING:



Bruce Taylor, Secretary