

THREE RIVERS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES
November 12, 2024
St. John's Episcopal Church, Tappahannock, VA

Board Members Present:

Robert Bland, Chair	AJ Brooks, Essex County
Langdon Townsend, Vice Chair	Thomas Fox, King William County
Bruce Taylor, Treasurer	Robbie Longest, VCE Essex County
Sara Henley, Secretary	

Three Rivers SWCD Staff Present:

Michelle Carter, District Manager	Sarah Cole, Conservation Coordinator
Anne Davis, Administrative Coordinator	Grace Daughtrey, Education Coordinator
Marley Goodman, Marketing Specialist	Trevor Guy, Precision Ag Specialist
Waring Baylor, Conservation Specialist	

Agency Partners:

Jerry Rauch, DCR	Marissa, Roland, DCR
Warren Coburn, DOF	Michael Dybowski, DOF

Guests:

Jay Hundley, Essex County	Kevin Norman, King & Queen County
Keith Burgess, Monacan SWCD	

Call to Order

Mr. Bland, Chair, called the Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District monthly meeting to order at 8:57 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, Tappahannock, VA.

Introduction of Guests:

Mr. Bland introduced the guests in attendance. The new CDC for DCR, Jerry Rauch who will be replacing Marissa Roland, Keith Burgess, District Manager for Monacan SWCD, Jay Hundley, resident and producer of Essex County and Kevin Norman, resident and producer of King & Queen County.

Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Townsend motioned to approve the September Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Henley motioned to approve the September Board of Directors Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Fox seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Taylor motioned to accept the September and October Treasurer's Reports as presented and the reports will be filed for audit. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Nominating Committee Appointment - Robert Bland, Chair

Mr. Bland appointed Robbie Longest as chair of the Nominating Committee and Langdon Townsend and A.J. Brooks as members. He asked them to announce the 2025 Board of Directors - Slate of Officers at the December 2024 Board of Directors meeting.

Operations Committee Report – Sara Henley, Operations Chair

Mrs. Henely stated the Operations Committee met prior to the Board of Directors meeting. She stated the committee conducted the midyear review of the Annual Plan of Work and the Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Henley brought forth the recommendation from the Operations Committee as a motion to approve hiring Non-Profit Wizards to provide Board training in February. Mr. Townsend seconded the motion and the motion carried.

District Operations – Michelle Carter

Mrs. Carter rolled out the new Summer Internship Program. This program will provide two summer internship opportunities with the TRSWCD. The positions will be an Education/Outreach Intern and a Precision Ag Intern. Applications will be due in March and the program will run from May through August. Staff had attended the CALS career fair at VA Tech to kick off the program. Informational flyers have been developed to promote the program.

In an effort to provide community outreach, the District is conducting Director Outreach Initiatives in each of their respective counties. Essex County Directors will sponsor the Clean Essex Spring and Fall Projects. King & Queen Directors will donate book shelves and books on the Environment, Recycling and the Chesapeake Bay for a youth reading nock. The King William Directors will participate with King William Farm Bureau and King William High School FFA with the donation of fresh fruit to Acquinton Elementary School and Cool Spring Primary School students.

Mrs. Carter stated the local government funding requests are due to each county. Mr. Taylor motioned to request level funding for Essex County and to request \$10,000.00 from King & Queen and King William Counties. Mr. Brooks seconded the motion and the motion carried.

District Operations – Michelle Carter Continued

Mrs. Carter stated Leslie Anne Hammond, York River Steward has asked the District to partner with Friends of the Rappahannock on a NFWF Grant for urban initiatives in the District's three counties.

District Coordinator – Anne Davis

The VASWCD Annual Meeting will be held on December 8-11 at the Hotel Roanoke. Hotel reservations and meeting registrations have been made for those planning to attend.

The wildlife food plots have been judged and the winners are in the Junior Division – Hayden Taylor with first place and in the Senior Division – Makenzie Neely first place, Tucker Townsend second place and Turpin Rowe third place. The winners will be awarded at our Awards Banquet in January.

Following the Board of Directors meeting today there will be a required in person FOIA training for all board members with Joe Underwood from the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

Education & Outreach Report - Grace Daughtrey

Ms. Daughtrey stated due to the flooding in Southwest Virginia the Farm Bureau Women's Committee decided to postpone the Haybale Contest. Our haybale will stay up through Halloween for people to visit and take pictures with it.

The District will participate in the King William High School Fruit Sale in partnership with the King William Farm Bureau to provide elementary school students with fresh fruit for the winter holidays.

The District will hold a local poster contest for 6th – 8th grade students in our three counties. The theme for the contest is "Life in the soil: Dig Deeper" and voting will take place at the Awards Banquet in January.

Ms. Daughtrey stated she attended field trips on October 22nd and 29th with Essex High School students and provided a station based on erosion and the importance of Three Rivers District.

A 12th grader from St. Margret's School in Essex County has been selected to participated in the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute.

District Technical Report – Sarah Cole and Waring Baylor

Mr. Baylor stated he has been reaching out to producers getting their planting dates and species for cover crops and any other changes they may have in their crop rotations. He stated he has been working on two SL-6 projects in King William and Essex County.

Nine RMPs were submitted for approval. Mr. Fox motioned to approve the Resource Management Plans as presented. Mr. Brooks seconded the motion and the motion carried. (Report Attached)

FY 25 VACS and Whole Farm Approach applications were presented for approval. Mr. Bland and Mr. Hundley were asked to leave the meeting room. Mr. Taylor motioned to approved the changes to FY25 VACS BMP Cost-Share Program COIA applications contract number 43-25-009 and contract number 43-25-0010 for Benjamin Ellis, Jr., contract number 43-25-0097 and contract number 43-25-0098 for Hundley Farms and contract number 43-25-0172 and contract number 43-25-0173 for R. T. Bland, Inc. as presented. Mrs. Henley seconded the motion and the motion carried. (Report Attached)

Mr. Townsend motioned to approve the changes and additional FY25 VACS BMP Cost Share Program Non-COIA applications as presented. Mr. Fox seconded the motion and the motion carried. (Report Attached)

Precision Ag Specialist Report – Trevor Guy

Mr. Guy stated he was asked to be a Yield Contest Supervisor for the National Corn Growers Association. He also stated he has been working with producers helping with calibrations on equipment, obtaining yield, as-applied or as-plated data, matching producer boundaries with Farm and Tract numbers for cost share support and has been attending trainings to receive his Conservation Planner Certifications.

Marketing & Communications Report – Marley Goodman

Ms. Goodman stated she has been working on the development and expansion of LinkedIn presence, expanding Three Rivers reach on Facebook and developing a platform to support “Preferred Method of Contact” for producers.

She stated she had been working with Waring to design the new Outstanding Stewardship Award sign and give the District’s other award signs a new look for the Awards Banquet that will be held in January.

The Annual Report for FY23-24 is in its final stages and will be delivered to the printer in the next week for publication.

Marketing & Communications Report – Marley Goodman Continued

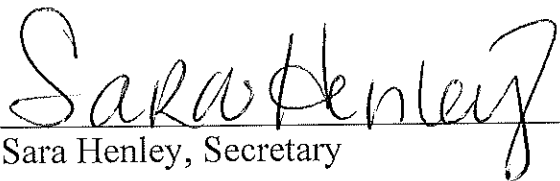
She shared pictures from recent social media post and stated how important a professional social media presence is for a business.

Agency Reports

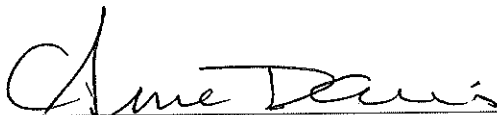
DCR – Marissa Roland and Jerry Rauch gave a written and oral report. (Report Attached)
DOF – Warren Coburn gave an oral report. He stated he would be retiring at the end of December and introduced Michael Dybowksi as his replacement.

There being no further business, Mr. Bland, Chair adjourned the meeting 9:51 a.m.

The FOIA training began with Mr. Joe Underwood and the following Directors and Staff were in attendance: Robert Bland, Langdon Townsend, Bruce Taylor, Sara Henley, Thomas Fox, AJ Brooks, Robbie Longest, Michelle Carter and Anne Davis.


Sara Henley, Secretary

12/17/24
Date


Anne Davis, Administrative Coordinator

12/17/24
Date