

**Technical Advisory Committee – Stream Protection & Forestry Subcommittee**

Augusta Government Center – South Board Room  
Staunton, Virginia

**Stream Protection & Forestry Subcommittee Members Present**

Mark Hollberg, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation – Div. of Soil & Water Conservation (DCR-DSWC)  
(Chair)

Aaron Lucas, Headwaters Soil & Water Conservation District

Anna Killius, James River Association

Ben Rowe, Virginia Farm Bureau (Proxy for Stefanie Taillon)

Bryan Hofmann, Friends of the Rappahannock

Charlie Wootton, Piedmont Soil & Water Conservation District

Chris Barbour, Skyline Soil & Water Conservation District

Elizabeth Dellinger, Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Gary Boring, New River Soil & Water Conservation District

Kelsey Williams, Hanover-Caroline SWCD

Lars Bolton, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Matt Kowalski, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Michael Tabor, Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District

Nick Livesay, Lord Fairfax Soil & Water Conservation District

Robert Bradford, Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District

Tim Higgs, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

Stacy Horton\*, DCR-DSWC

**Stream Protection & Forestry Subcommittee Members Absent**

Jim Riddell, Virginia Cattlemen's Association

Luke Longanecker, Virginia Association of Conservation District Employees (VACDE)

Todd Groh, Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF)

Tricia Mays, Southside Soil & Water Conservation District

Chad Wentz\*, United States Dept. of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Chris Bradshaw\*, USDA-NRCS

Drew Miller\*, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Raleigh Coleman\*, DCR-DSWC

Sandra Stuart\*, Natural Bridge Soil & Water Conservation District

(\*Non-voting member)

**Members of the Public Present**

Chanz Hopkins, Skyline Soil & Water Conservation District

Freeda Cathcart, Blue Ridge Soil & Water Conservation District

Nicole Keller, DCR-DSWC

## **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

The subcommittee meeting began at 9:30AM with introductions and a review of the ground rules for the subcommittee. The subcommittee will need to Advance, Amend, Table, or Defer each of the five items on the agenda from the subcommittee's original scope of work matrix and each of the three items on the agenda from the subcommittee's extra scope of work matrix. In order to decide which of these actions will be recommended to the full TAC, the subcommittee must be 80% in agreement. With 16 voting members present of the 20 voting members on the roster, a quorum was present to conduct business.

## **MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2021**

The subcommittee reviewed the minutes of the July 28, 2021 subcommittee meeting. Mr. Kowalski offered an edit to the minutes on page 2 under "Matrix Items 3S & 9S" to note that "one other subcommittee member" should be changed to "Bryan Hofmann". Mr. Hollberg offered an edit to the minutes on page 3 under "Matrix Item 1S" to change "SP-2W" to "WP-2W". Mr. Hofmann made a motion to approve the minutes with edits. Ms. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (16Y, 0N).

## **RESOLVE OUTSTANDING MATRIX ITEMS**

The subcommittee began discussing the outstanding five priority matrix items.

### **Matrix Item 1S:**

Mr. Hollberg presented the edited FR-3 specification with the SL-6W/WP-2W buffer payment language added to Section C of the specification. Mr. Wootton made a motion to approve the addition of the buffer payment language to the specification. Mr. Tabor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (16Y, 0N).

Mr. Hollberg presented the edited FR-3 specification with language in Section B prohibiting grazing in the planting area for the lifespan of the practice. After discussion about the applicability of this language to both the FR-1 and the FR-3 specifications, Mr. Boring made a motion to add this language to the FR-1 and the FR-3 specifications. Mr. Hofmann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (16Y, 0N).

The edited FR-1 and FR-3 specifications (**Matrix Item 1S**) will **Advance** to the full TAC for consideration.

### **Matrix Items 3S & 9S:**

Mr. Kowalski presented the new FR-3M specification that he and Mr. Hofmann drafted at the request of the subcommittee. Mr. Kowalski noted that literature supports the notion that management within the first three years of planting is critical to ensuring tree survival so the specification was designed to provide cost-share for management activities within the first three years of planting. The practice can be applied to a planting within the program year of establishment and up to three calendar years to prevent addressing four or five year old buffer plantings. The subcommittee discussed the qualifications needed to develop and/or approve a buffer management plan and decided that a Forester employed by the Virginia Department of Forestry would be most qualified to develop and/or approve a buffer management plan. It was noted that gully erosion can be addressed with the specification only if it was not previously addressed as part of the FR-3 specification or other program. The FR-3M is not intended to cover replanting costs associated with a FR-3 practice failure. The subcommittee discussed the

proposed \$350/acre rate. Mr. Kowalski and Mr. Hofmann noted that a rate of 100% cost-share not to exceed \$350/ acre is sufficient to cover most maintenance needs but may not fully cover areas with heavy invasive species issues/ pressures. Mr. Tabor made a motion to approve the FR-3M specification as discussed and as amended/ edited by the subcommittee. Mr. Higgs seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously (15Y, 0N). Mr. Bradford left the room and was not present for the vote. The proposed FR-3M specification (**Matrix Items 3S and 9S**) will **Advance** to the full TAC for consideration.

**Matrix Item 4S:**

Mr. Hollberg presented the SL-6W and WP-2W specifications with the increase of the buffer cap to 15 acres and the corresponding changes to the buffer payment cap in Section C of the respective specifications. Mr. Kowalski made a motion to accept the amended SL-6W and WP-2W specifications with the 15-acre buffer cap and corresponding buffer payment cap changes. Mr. Tabor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (16Y, 0N). The edited SL-6W and WP-2W specifications (**Matrix Item 4S**) will **Advance** to the full TAC for consideration.

**Matrix Item 6S:**

Mr. Hollberg noted that no action was taken on this item at the July 28, 2021 subcommittee meeting because the subcommittee felt that the new FR-3M specification would address this item. The subcommittee discussed this and Mr. Hofmann made a motion to table Matrix Item 6S because the concern was addressed in the development of the new FR-3M specification. Mr. Kowalski seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously (16Y, 0N). **Matrix Item 6S was Tabled.**

**“EXTRA” MATRIX ITEMS**

The subcommittee began discussing the three “extra” matrix items.

**Matrix Item 11S:**

It was noted that Matrix Item 11S was addressed in the edits proposed in the motion addressing Matrix Item 1S.

**Matrix Item 15S:**

Ms. Dellinger presented the SL-6FP specification that she had drafted at the request of the subcommittee. She noted that Mr. Hollberg and Mr. David Bryan had reviewed the draft SL-6FP specification and that Mr. Bryan had concerns about including the intentions of the SL-6FP specification as part of the SL-6W specification and felt that these intentions should be addressed in a separate specification. The subcommittee had a significant amount of discussion about the applicability of the practice to various farming and floodplain scenarios and whether the area between the edge of the buffer and the exclusion fencing could be managed for crops as well as hay. The subcommittee decided not to include crops as a possible management option for the area between the edge of the buffer and the exclusion fencing due to concerns about soil disturbance, soil loss and nutrient application associated with managing cropland. The subcommittee discussed the grazing aspect of the original request from the matrix and decided that grazing the area between the edge of the buffer and the exclusion fencing would not be allowable given the concerns about reliance on temporary fence. The subcommittee discussed and noted that SWCD technical staff will really need to evaluate whether the

practice installation is truly in a floodplain when deciding whether to apply the SL-6W or the SL-6FP specification to a field. Mr. Boring made a motion to approve the SL-6FP specification as drafted and discussed. Mr. Barbour seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (16Y, 0N). The proposed SL-6FP specification (**Matrix Item 15S**) will **Advance** to the full TAC for consideration.

**Matrix Item 16S:**

The subcommittee talked about the possibility of removing the buffer requirement from the SL-7 practice specification. Mr. Wootton discussed the history of the SL-7 specification as it originated as a practice designed to be paired with CREP contracts to extend CREP watering systems into upland fields in order to implement rotational grazing and was later modified as a combination of the SL-7 and SL-9 practices to be paired with CREP, SL-6W and SL-6N practices. Dropping the buffer requirement for buffers smaller than 35 feet for a 50% payment would maintain the original intent of the SL-9 practice. Mr. Tabor made a motion to remove the 10-foot buffer requirement language in Section B and Section C of the SL-7 specification, providing for 75% cost-share for a 35-foot buffer with a 10 year lifespan, 80% cost-share for a 35-foot buffer with a 15 year lifespan, 50% cost-share for a buffer less than 35 feet with a 10 year lifespan, and 55% cost-share for a buffer less than 35 feet with a 15 year lifespan. Mr. Bradford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (16Y, 0N). The edited SL-7 specification (**Matrix Item 16S**) will **Advance** to the full TAC for consideration.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Hollberg noted that the full TAC will meet on October 21, 2021 and that all voting TAC members will need to be present at the meeting in order to ensure a quorum.

**MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no matters from the public for discussion.

**REVIEW OF THE DAY'S DISCUSSION/ OUTCOMES/ ACTIONS**

Mr. Hollberg noted that the tentatively scheduled August 31, 2021 and September 10, 2021 subcommittee meetings will no longer be necessary because the subcommittee has addressed all of its respective matrix items.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35PM.