

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees

May 24, 2017

VCU Rice Rivers Center, Charles City, Virginia

TIME AND PLACE

The meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees took place at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at the VCU Rice Rivers Center in Charles City, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Molly Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources, Chair
Robert Lazaro, Jr., Vice Chair

Byron M. Adkins, Jr.
R. Brian Ball
Glenda C. Booth
Susan E. Donner
Joan Fenton
Jay C. Ford

Valerie D. Hubbard
Anna Lawson
The Honorable Albert C. Pollard, Jr.
Russell Vern Presley
The Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

The Honorable Basil I. Gooden, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
Steven L. Apicella
The Honorable Emmet Hanger, Jr.
Paul V. Milde
Julian Ottley
The Honorable Jill Holtzman Vogel

STATE AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

Clyde E. Cristman, DCR, Executive Secretary
Rochelle Altholz, DCR
Suzan Bulbulkaya, DCR
Jason Bulluck, DCR
Rob Evans, DCR
Michael Fletcher, DCR
Martha Little, VOF
Jason McGarvey, VOF
Lisa McGee, DCR

John Mitchell, DCR
Wendy Musumeci, DHR
Danette Poole, DCR
Sarah Richardson, DCR
Tre Rockenbach, DCR
Mike Santucci, DOF
Larry Smith, DCR
Tom Smith, DCR
Andy Sorrell, VDACS

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Greg Garman, Director, VCU Rice Rivers Center
Nikki Rovner, The Nature Conservancy
Ellen Shepherd, Virginia's United Land Trusts

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

With thirteen (13) members present, a quorum was established.

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Ward called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

WELCOME

Dr. Greg Garman welcomed members to the VCU Rice Rivers Center. He gave an overview of the work at the center and discussed future plans. He offered members the opportunity for a wetlands tour following the meeting.

Secretary Ward thanked Dr. Garman and noted that the Board was thrilled to be meeting at the Rice Rivers Center.

Secretary Ward called on Director Cristman for remarks.

Director Cristman gave an overview of budget issues from the 2017 General Assembly Session. He advised that DCR had been directed to cut \$4 million from the agency budget. He noted that funding for the VLCF had been reduced from the original \$8 million by \$3.5 million. The budget included language specifying that the remaining \$4.5 million be divided evenly among the Virginia Outdoors Foundation for the preservation trust fund and each of the four grant categories. That provides \$900,000 for each of the VLCF grant categories. He noted that this was still more funding than in most previous years.

Director Cristman noted that DCR has successfully addressed nearly all of the 93 audit points assessed to the agency at the beginning of his tenure. The Auditor of Public Accounts performed a special audit of the VLCF fund. No audit points were awarded.

Director Cristman gave an update regarding the settlement with DuPont. He noted that the case goes back to the 1950s and 1960s and relates to damage caused in the Waynesboro area. The lawsuit and settlement have been pending for more than 30 years. Secretary Ward directed that the issue be resolved. A public hearing was set for June 2, 2017. The hope is that following the public hearing the judge will sign the order and the settlement will be concluded. Funds are expected to be awarded to a VLCF project contingently approved upon the conclusion of the settlement.

Regarding the Skiffes Creek Settlement, a permit is expected to be issued for a power line across the James River near Jamestown. Funds from the settlement will be restricted to mitigation of the project in the Williamsburg area. Around \$25 million will go to DCR for mitigation focusing around York River, and York River State Park.

The power line will convey power from the Surry Nuclear Power Plant and will replace the energy source from the coal fired plant near Yorktown that will be closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

Ms. Booth moved that the minutes of the September 14, 2016 meeting of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees be approved as submitted. Ms. Lawson seconded and the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE VLCF SUBCOMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDED PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Pollard reported that the work of the Subcommittee had been significant but challenging. He noted that members of the subcommittee were himself, Ms. Booth, Mr. Ball, and Mr. Ford. The subcommittee met twice since the last Board meeting with the intent of making the Board more active in terms of setting the agenda and approving the grants manual that dictates funding.

Mr. Pollard advised that the subcommittee recommended using existing tools to determine what has been preserved and what should be preserved regarding different lands such as wetlands and natural areas. Through those tools the intent is for the VLCF to establish a specific set of goals to be incorporated into a vision document for the use of Board members.

Mr. Pollard noted that the subcommittee had viewed three presentations that could serve as building blocks and allow for a more in-depth discussion. Staff making those presentations were asked to present them to the full Board. He asked that Board members consider how the information provided can be used by the subcommittee in determining next steps.

2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan: Danette Poole, Planning and Recreation Resources Division Director, DCR

2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan
Virginia's 10th Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Outdoor Recreation Objective

Provides guidance to all levels of government and the private sector in meeting the state's conservation, outdoor recreation, and open space needs.

Produced in accordance with §10.1-200 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Land Conservation Objective

Provides guidance for land protection through actions of the *Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF)*.

Identifies potential conservation lands in each planning district (region).

Produced in accordance with §10.1-1021 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Requirement of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program.

Provides guidance for grant fund allocation to state and local projects.

Ms. Poole reviewed results from the 2011 Virginia Outdoor Demand Survey. The most popular activities remain:

- Walking for pleasure
- Visiting historic areas
- Visiting parks (local, state, national)

Survey Summary

- Survey indicates shift in recreation trends
- Wide range in participation for outdoor recreation activities
- Importance of state park facilities
- Strong support for public purchase, management, and access to natural areas and open space

2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan

For the Good of Virginia - The Benefits of Outdoor Recreation and Land Conservation

Regional meetings have been held in all Planning District Areas on an annual basis.

VOP Schedule

- Fall 2016 – Regional meetings
- Spring 2017 – Inventory & Survey
- Spring 2017 – VOP TAC meeting
- Fall 2017 – Post draft VOP
- Fall/Winter 2017-2018 – VOP public meetings, webinar
- Layout for web
- 30-day comment period
- Spring 2018 – Final VOP to NPS for approval

2017 Virginia Outdoors Demand Survey

Task	Date
Focus Group	April 18
Launch Pilot Survey	May 12
Interim Report to DCR	June 5
Mail advance letter for random survey	June 27
Launch crowd sourced survey online	August 1
Final Survey result to DCR	Sept. 15

2018 Virginia Outdoors Plan Funding

- NPS LWCF Grant for \$164,034
 - Survey and Needs Assessment
 - Layout and Printing
- DCR Financial Match to NPS-LWCF for \$164,034
 - Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Funds - \$20,000
 - DCR Staff Time - \$129,000
 - State Indirect Share - \$15,034

Overview of ConservationVision: Jason Bulluck, Natural Heritage Division Director, DCR

Virginia ConservationVision
Tools for Strategic Conservation Planning

MISSION:

- To conserve Virginia's biodiversity through statewide biological inventory, protection, and stewardship.
- By maintaining a statewide database for conservation planning, project review, land protection for the conservation of biodiversity, and the protection and ecological management of natural heritage resources

Virginia's Priority Conservation Sites: lands where stronger protection will benefit Virginia's *known* biodiversity (March 2009)

Areas known to contain rare plant and animal species habitats, and exemplary natural communities:

- Conservation Sites
- Stream Conservation Units
- Karst Resources
- DGIF T&E Waters
- DGIF Species Obs.

Assessment of biodiversity importance, conserved status and management of lands = prioritization of biodiversity

Benefits of Green Infrastructure Networks

- Wildlife and plant habitat
- Biodiversity conservation
- Maintenance of water quality
- Groundwater recharge
- Recreational opportunities
- Open space
- Carbon sequestration
- Crop pollination
- Protection from storm and flood damage
- Erosion control and sediment retention

Virginia Conservation Lands

To identify and track ALL conserved lands in Virginia at the tract level.

- Federal – NPS, USFS
- State – State Parks and Natural Areas Preserves
- Local – Parks, PDR lands
- Private – Land Trust holdings, TNC Preserves, Conservation Easements

Attributes

Name, Owner, Manager
Managed area type,
Acreages (deed and GIS),
Biodiversity Management Intent
Legal Protection Status

Well-designed conservation landscapes with representative systems of conservation areas of sufficient size, condition, and connectivity to maintain even the most sensitive species and ecological processes – are an essential foundation of any conservation strategy.

- *David Olson and colleagues (2002)*

*Ecological Model (2007)**Virginia Natural Landscape Assessment (VaNLA)*

- To identify and rank core areas (>/= 100 interior acres) based on their contributions to a functional ecological network
- INPUTS – depth of interior habitat, core size, length of interior streams, wetland abundance, diversity of wetland types, presence of Natural Heritage resources, SWAP, SGCN

Virginia Watershed Model (2017)

- To identify lands that are most important for protecting water quality and maintaining watershed integrity
- INPUTS
 - Watershed integrity
 - § Biotic integrity
 - § Imperviousness
 - Landscape position
 - § Hydro zones
 - § Drinking water
 - Soil sensitivity
 - § Soil type
 - § Slope
 - Land cover
 - § Pollution load
 - § Erosion

Virginia Cultural Model (2007)

- To identify the relative cultural and history values of lands
- Partnered with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- INPUTS
 - Archaeological Sites & Architectural Sites
 - § National Historic Districts
 - § National Historic Landmarks
 - § National Historic Register Sites

- § State Inventoried Sides (Eligible for possible National Register and Easements)
- American Indian Areas

Virginia Agricultural Model (2015)

- To quantify the relative suitability of lands for agricultural activity across the state.
- INPUTS
 - Soil Quality Score
 - § Soil suitability for ag
 - Foodshed Score
 - § Travel time to markets
 - Land Cover Score
 - § Land cover suitability for ag or conversion to ag

Virginia Forest Economics Model (2008)

- To map the relative value of forest lands with economic value
- INPUTS
 - Soil Productivity
 - Riparian and Wetland features
 - Steep Slopes
 - R,T,E Species
 - Land Use Taxation Values
 - Stumpage value
 - Historic Timber Harvests
 - Distance to Mills

Virginia Recreational Model (2007)

- To map the relative recreation value of lands
- DATA LAYERS
 - Access Points
 - Trails
 - § Blueways
 - § Greenways
 - § Birding Trails
 - Parks
 - § Federal
 - § State
 - § Local
 - Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Hunting and Fishing Data
 - Beaches – VIMS

Virginia Vulnerability Model (2015)

- To quantify the predicted relative risk of conversion from “natural,” rural, or other open space land to urbanized or other built-up land uses.
- INPUTS
 - Travel time

- § Urban, metro and growth, hotspots
- Conservation Status
 - § Management intent
 - § Legal protection status

IMPLEMENTATION

- Natural Heritage Data Explorer
- LandScope America
- VOP Mapper
- Coastal GEMS
- ArcGIS Online
- GIS Model data
- Technical reports
- Partner Support
- Assessing/Scoring land conservation opportunities
- Developing a set of land conservation goals for Virginia and strategy towards them

Presentation of How Much is Protected/Unprotected: Tom Smith, DCR Deputy Director of Operations

Virginia Land Conservation Summary – Tom Smith

Using Data from *ConservationVision* to Consider How Much More should be Protected?

Total Acres Protected in Virginia – 4,021,678 out of about 25.3 million total acres.

Protected areas = all permanently protected lands in Virginia by private, local, state and federal agencies, either by fee simple purchase or easement.

Wetlands

- 375,296 acres protected
- 2,191,279 acres unprotected

Natural Areas

- 585,146 acres protected
- 1,000,065 acres unprotected

Natural Landscape Assessment

- 2,742,887 acres protected
- 11,136,375 acres unprotected

Forest Lands

- 2,773,221 acres protected
- 14,626,242 acres unprotected

Agricultural Lands

- 387,238 acres protected

- 4,455,049 acres unprotected

Battlefields

- 117,783 acres protected
- 829,114 acres unprotected

Mr. Pollard thanked the presenters. He noted that these tools will help shape and focus the work of the subcommittee. He asked how the Board would like the subcommittee to proceed.

Members noted the following:

- No one else is taking a comprehensive role in land conservation. It is the fiduciary responsibility of the VLCF to have the best information for spending tax dollars.
- How does this fit into the Code of Virginia's requirements for the VLCF?
- This helps make sure that the bases are covered in terms of what funds are available and makes sure they are committed appropriately.
- This will enhance the sophistication of the process.

Mr. Pollard advised that the subcommittee will continue the work and will continue to provide updates to the full Board.

Director Cristman noted that it would be helpful to have information in the October time frame when agencies are in the budget development process.

UPDATE ON THE LAND PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM AND THE TRANSFER FEE REVENUES: LARRY DURBIN, ASSISTANT TAX COMMISSIONER, VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION


Mr. Durbin gave the following presentation:

Donations

Donations by Year			
Tax Year	# of Credits	# of Acres	Credit Allocated
2000-2006	1557	295,070	\$736,837,981
2007-2008	478	119,504	\$202,287,081
2009	228	63,409	\$106,647,000
2010	146	38,551	\$106,845,000
2011	367	75,025	\$108,424,000
2012	228	45,329	\$64,090,780
2013	234	64,909	\$78,882,596
2014	136	31,428	\$55,648,387
2015	182	42,362	\$48,625,672
2016	163	30,983	\$58,475,935
2017	31	7,216	\$7,865,915
Grand Total	3750	813,786	\$1,574,630,347

*Through May 1, 2017

© 2017 Virginia Department of Taxation

 Virginia Tax

Code of Virginia §58.1-512 (D)(4):

4

c. Beginning with calendar year 2015, the maximum amount of credits that may be issued in a calendar year shall not exceed \$75 million. In no case shall the Department issue any tax credit for a donation from any allocation or pool of tax credits attributable to a calendar year prior to the year in which the complete tax credit application for the donation was filed.

© 2017 Virginia Department of Taxation



Transfer Fee Revenue

Transfer fees for FY17

6

Land Preservation Transfer
 Comparison as of March

Revenue	March 2017	March 2016
Revenue Collected - CARS 1671 - fund 0216 RSC 02740	2,141,838	2,327,166
Less: Transfer to GF, Chapter 2, Item 3-101 paragraph U	-600,000	-600,000
Net Revenue	1,541,838	1,727,166
Expenses		
Less: DCR Expenses	253,412	252,437
Less: TAX Expenses	496,697	611,159
Total Expenses	750,109	863,596
Revenue Less Expenses	791,729	863,570
50% of Total FY 2017 Revenue	770,919	863,583

© 2017 Virginia Department of Taxation



Transfer Fee Revenue

7

Department of Taxation Expenses

Description	Amount
Staff Salary and Benefits	276,678
Office of the Attorney General-Salary and Benefits	94,092
Non-personal Services (Appraisals etc.)	125,927
Total	496,697

Litigation

In the Supreme Court of Virginia IT Infrastructure Partnership

James K. Woolford and Elizabeth P. Woolford, Trustees of the Woolford Trust
and William W. Woolford and Janice B. Woolford

v.

Virginia Department of Taxation
Record No. 161095

Litigation

10

- The Circuit Court of King William County:
 - The Court granted the Department's motion for summary judgment.
 - The Court found that the Plaintiff's appraiser lacks the necessary education and experience, as required by applicable federal law incorporated by Va. Code §58.1-512 B to offer an appraisal of mineral property.
- The Supreme Court of Virginia has agreed to hear this case.
- Briefs are being filed.

Litigation

11

1. Code of Virginia § 58.1-512 (B)

- Any appraisal that, upon audit by the Department, is determined to be false or fraudulent, may be disregarded by the Department in determining the fair market value of the property and the amount of tax credit to be allowed under this section.
- In the event that any appraiser falsely or fraudulently overstates the value of the contributed property in an appraisal that the appraiser has signed, the Department may disallow further appraisals signed by the appraiser and shall refer the appraiser to the Real Estate Appraiser Board for appropriate disciplinary action pursuant to § [54.1-2013](#), which may include, but need not be limited to, revocation of the appraiser's license.

© 2017 Virginia Department of Taxation



Litigation

12

1. Code of Virginia § 58.1-512.1 (C)

The fair market value of any property with respect to a qualified donation shall not exceed the value for the highest and best use

- (i) that is consistent with existing zoning requirements;*
- (ii) for which the property was adaptable and needed or likely to be needed in the reasonably near future in the immediate area in which the property is located.*
- (iii) that considers factors such as, by way of illustration and not limitation, slopes, flood plains, and soil conditions of the property; and*
- (iv) for which existing roads serving the property are sufficient to support commercial or residential development in the event that is the highest and best use proposed for the property*

© 2017 Virginia Department of Taxation



PREVIOUS VLCF GRANT AWARDS UPDATE

Ms. Richardson gave an update regarding the previous grant round.

VLCF grants closed since last board meeting in Sept. 2016

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – Crosier Tract (FY16 grant round; closed April 2017)

This grant enabled the fee-simple purchase of a 140-acre tract to protect rare species and natural communities within the Elliston Glades conservation site at Pedlar Hills Glades NAP. Public ownership of this tract helps DCR achieve the longtime goal of developing public access to the natural area preserve.

VLCF Grant: \$70,000.

Virginia Department of Forestry – Ridley Farm Easement (FY16 grant round; closed October 2016)

The grant funded purchase of a conservation easement to protect 567 acres in Southampton County containing 185 acres of swamp/bottomland hardwoods that includes old-growth Tupelo/Bald Cypress swamp on the Nottoway River. The bottomland hardwoods, which lie within DCR's Natural Heritage-designated Cypress Swamps Conservation Site, are protected from timber harvesting and serve as a buffer to the Cypress Bridge Natural Area Preserve across the Nottoway River. The easement helps preserve the viewshed of a state Scenic River. **VLCF Grant:** \$250,000.

Virginia Department of Forestry – Buck's Elbow Mt. Easement (FY17 grant round; closed December 2016)

The grant supports purchase of an open-space easement on 263 acres of forested land in western Albemarle County. All the land is classified as high forest conservation value by VDOF, and two globally rare natural communities occur on site. It contains approximately 1,700 linear feet of headwater streams of Powell Creek, and is highly visible from publicly owned parks in the area. **VLCF Grant:** \$125,000.

Virginia Department of Forestry – Goosepond Easement (FY17 grant round; closed December 2016)

The grant supports purchase of an open-space easement on 955 acres of primarily forested land in Dinwiddie County. The 931 forested acres have high forest conservation value and are under active management. The easement protects nearly 2 miles of streams with permanent forested buffers, including about 40 acres of wetlands. DCR's Natural Heritage Program staff has confirmed the presence of the state-threatened barking tree frog (*Hyla gratiosa*) and its habitat on the property, which will be protected by habitat protection areas. **VLCF Grant:** \$125,000.

Valley Conservation Council – Valley Pike Farm (FY17 grant round; closed December 2016)

The grant supported purchase of a conservation easement held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation on a 151-acre family farm in Rockingham County with productive agricultural soils, wildlife habitat, and scenic views from U.S. Highway 11 and Interstate 81. The easement protects nearly 100 acres of prime and statewide important soils. **VLCF Grant:** \$200,000.

Botetourt County – Eagle Rock Park (FY17 grant round; closed January 2017)

VLCF funds were used to buy a six-acre parcel along the James River near the town of Eagle Rock, where the county will provide a loop trail, camping facilities, swimming, and fishing and boating access. **VLCF Grant:** \$72,000. This project closed under budget, providing \$16,194 to be carried forward to the Open Space and Parks category of the VLCF FY18 grant round.

City of Alexandria – Historic Murray-Dick-Fawcett House (FY17 grant round; closed April 2017)

The grant request funded fee-simple acquisition of a 0.3-acre lot on Prince Street in Old Town Alexandria, containing an historically significant 18th century timber frame and brick dwelling distinguished by its relatively unaltered state of preservation. The property is a contributing resource to the Alexandria Historic District, which is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places and designated a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior in 1966. Protection of the property will preserve a nationally significant architectural and cultural resource while

promoting heritage tourism and providing full public access to an urban green space in the urban core.
VLCF Grant: \$900,000.

VLCF FINANCIAL UPDATE

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented the Financial Update.

Fund Statement
As of April 30, 2017

OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE – October 13, 2013	\$1,522,465
INCOME	
FY 14 Stewardship Funds	\$1,088,822
FY 15 Stewardship Funds	\$855,400
FY 16 Stewardship Funds	\$1,043,198
FY 14 Appropriation – Chapter 3	\$1,000,000
FY 15 Appropriation – Chapter 806	\$1,000,000
FY 16 Appropriation – Chapter 780	\$6,000,000
FY 16 Excess City of Chesapeake project money returned	\$50,000
FY 16 Interest	\$30,138
FY 17 Interest	\$48,499
TOTAL INCOME	\$17,116,057
DISBURSEMENTS	
FY 15 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$1,088,822
FY 16 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$855,400
FY 17 Stewardship Fund Disbursements	\$1,043,198
FY 14 Grant Payments	\$834,978
FY 15 Grant Payments	\$556,937
FY 16 Grant Payments	\$1,054,230
FY 17 Grant Payments	\$2,065,255
FY 14 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$250,000
FY 15 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$250,000
FY 16 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$1,000,000
FY 17 Open Space Preservation (VOF) Payments	\$2,000,000
FY 15 Appropriation Reversion – Part 3, 1.01 ZZ. CH665	\$300,000
TOTAL DISBURSEMENT	\$11,298,820
OBLIGATED FUND BALANCE – April 30, 2017	\$7,339,702

Ms. Bulbulkaya shared the following overview of the DCR share of the budget and how the transfer fee is used.

Division	Commitments	FY 17	FY 18
Director's Office	Staff Salary & Benefits	\$137,000	\$160,000
Planning and Recreation Resources	Virginia Outdoors Plan	\$20,000	\$0
Director's Office	Chesapeake Large Landscapes Conservation Lands & ConservationVision	\$25,000	\$25,000
Natural Heritage	Information Management	\$244,870	\$244,870
	TOTAL	\$426,870	\$429,870

FY 18 GRANT EXPENDITURE PLAN DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

Ms. Bulbulkaya presented the FY 18 Grant Expenditure Plan.

	FUNDING CATEGORIES	FY18 Budget Bill Chapter 836, Item 365D	TOTAL
1.	I. VOF Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund	\$900,000	\$900,000
2.	II. Grant Program		
3.	(i) Farmland and Forest Preservation	\$900,000	\$900,000
4.	(ii) Historic Area Preservation	\$900,000	\$900,000
5.	(iii) Natural Area Protection	\$900,000	\$900,000
6.	(iv) Open Space and Parks	\$900,000	\$900,000
	TOTAL	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000

Item 365 D of Chapter 836 of the 2017 Virginia Acts of Assembly

D.1. Included in the amount for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$8,000,000 the first year and \$4,500,000 the second year from the general fund to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation Fund, § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia. *Notwithstanding § 10.1-1020, Code of Virginia, \$900,000 shall be transferred to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund. No less than 50 percent of the appropriations remaining after the transfer to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust fund has been satisfied* are to be used for grants for fee simple acquisitions with public access or acquisitions of easements with public access. This appropriation shall be deemed sufficient to meet the provisions of § 2.2-1509.4, Code of Virginia. [Grant Funds]

2. Included in the amounts for Preservation of Open Space Lands is \$2,000,000 the first year and \$2,000,000 the second year from nongeneral funds to be deposited into the Virginia Land Conservation

Fund to be distributed by the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation pursuant to the provisions of § 58.1-513, Code of Virginia. [Stewardship Funds]

BOARD ACTION

Mr. Lazaro moved that the Board approve the Grant Expenditure Plan as presented by staff with the additional \$16,194 carried forward from the previous grant applied to the Open Space and Parks category. Mr. Woodley seconded and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE FY18 GRANT ROUND SCHEDULE

Ms. Richardson presented the following recommended schedule for the FY 18 Grant Round.

2017 VLCF Grant Round Schedule	
Wednesday, May 24, 2017	VLCF Board meeting to approve grant round.
By June 2, 2017	Announce grant round (emails, postcards).
Thursday, June 29, 2017	Workshop for grant applicants at the Department of Forestry Training Room, 900 Natural Resources Drive, Charlottesville.
Thursday, August 10, 2017	Deadline for application submittal.
August, 2017	Interagency taskforce meetings to score projects - usually takes two meetings.
Early September, 2017	SNR and Director's review of top-scoring projects.
Third week in September	VLCF Board meeting. Approval of grant awards.
By December 1, 2017	Grant agreements signed. Projects have two years to close.

BOARD ACTION

Ms. Lawson moved that the Board approve the recommended FY18 Grant Round Schedule as presented by staff. Mr. Ford seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE FY18 GRANTS MANUAL

Ms. Richardson noted that the recommended changes to the FY18 Grants Manual had been sent to members prior to the meeting.

BOARD ACTION

After discussing the proposed changes to the grants manual, Mr. Lazaro moved that the Board approve the changes to the FY18 Grants Manual as recommended by staff. Mr. Woodley seconded and the motion carried.

A copy of the grant manual is available at this link:

<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/virginia-land-conservation-foundation/document/vlcfgrntman.docx>

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

There were no additional comments from Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

There was no additional business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honorable Molly Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources, Chair

Clyde E. Cristman
DCR Director, Executive Secretary