

**MINUTES**  
**Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF)**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**September 26, 2019**  
**Fredericksburg, VA**

**Attendees:**

**Trustees:**

Eleanor Brown, Chair  
Viola Baskerville  
Raul Garcia  
Beth Obenshain  
Steph Ridder  
Brent Thompson  
Tom Slater

**Guests:**

Ellen Shepherd, Virginia United Land Trusts  
Natasha Skelton, The Conservation Fund  
Rob Evans, Department of Conservation and Recreation  
(DCR) Division of Natural Heritage (DNH)  
Melissa Jackson, DCR  
Sharon Partee, DCR  
Jamie Craig, Beechtree Group, LLC  
Peggy Stevens, interested citizen  
Nan Mahone, Conservation Partners

**Staff:**

Brett Glymph, Executive Director  
Scott Bartley, Land Conservation Assistant  
Bobbie Cabibbo, Executive Assistant  
Allan Coberly, Records Assistant  
Leslie Grayson, Deputy Director of Acquisitions and  
Owned Lands  
Rena Gutridge, Office Assistant  
Martha Little, Deputy Director of Stewardship  
Jason McGarvey, Communications & Outreach  
Manager  
Tyler McGilvery, Stewardship Assistant  
Dave Morton, ITS/GIS Manager  
Alex Smith, Stewardship Assistant  
Allison Tillet, Land Conservation Assistant  
Tamara Vance, Deputy Director of Easements  
Joe Villari, Bull Run Mt. Natural Area Preserve Manager  
Emily White, Conservation Program Administrator

**Counsel:**

Rich Mahevich, Office of the Attorney General

Eleanor Brown, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 10:34

**APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Motion made by Tom Slater to approve the order of business; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jamie Craig -Beech Street Group urged trustees to oppose the proposed change to the VLCF review criteria from the current thresholds as he feels it will harm the program and has not been well received by the conservation community.

**CHAIR'S REPORT/COMMENTS**

Eleanor report that the 1619 Commemoration – First African Landing event in Hampton was very meaningful. The celebration included an event at the Tucker Cemetery in Hampton, which received public access funding from VOF. The cemetery is now majestic, previously there was no public access and was overgrown. The Tucker Family Society has worked hard to restore the grounds where it is believed that the first African American child born in America is buried.

A presentation of before and after pictures at Evergreen Cemetery was shown and is on file with permanent record of this meeting. Viola Baskerville reported on the recent activity around the Evergreen project. Jason McGarvey and Viola will be the presenters of the restoration at Land Trust Alliance RALLY Conference in October along with Enrichmond's Executive Director, John Sydnor.

The segment about Evergreen and East End cemeteries from the NBC *News with Lester Holt Show* was shown and is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

Eleanor also reported that

- the year-end land conservation project numbers are steady with last year's results and we are counting on 69 projects for about 19,000 acres
- Chesapeake Bay report is out and VOF is responsible for roughly 1/5 of protection acres of the bay in the 6 state region
- Our June 2020 meeting will be in Fauquier at the invitation of Tom Slater and his family. We will plan a trip to Bull Run Mts. Natural Area Preserve and have dinner at Rose Hill. Our first meeting will be in in Petersburg.

Eleanor and Brett led an oral presentation congratulating Leslie Grayson on over 30 years with VOF. They outlined some of her achievements and the board and audience applauded her efforts and contributions.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Brett reported that on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> she and Viola Baskerville would be attending the ceremony celebrating the purchase of and placing of an easement on land in Charles City County belonging to the Chickahominy Tribe. In addition to the Land Trust of Virginia RALLY conference, Viola and Brett will be attending a Preservation Virginia event in Waterford, VA to make a presentation of the effort at Evergreen and East End Cemeteries. Virginia Forever put together a 5-year funding plan which originally the did not cover operational funding, only capital needs of organizations. Through the efforts of Nicki Rovner, of The Nature Conservancy, that funding plan now includes operational needs.

Martha Little reported on the placement of a historical marker in Goochland County noting the first conservation easement in Virginia which is held by VOF. Brad Baskette an Assistant Director of Stewardship presented at the ceremony and his speech is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

Martha also noted that in order to minimize impacts of road work where trees were removed in Amelia County, VDOT gave VOF mitigation dollars to put into our TERRA account to give out modest grants to smaller organizations to plant trees (or other activities beneficial to the land) in the Appomattox River watershed.

Leslie Grayson narrated a presentation on Public Access Projects accomplished since 2016 (ATTACHMENT A). Tom remarked that the VA Legislature needs to hear this presentation and Raul asked if it would be possible to go further and see the demographics.

- who and how many people are getting access to these public access projects.
- How much more can be done for communities and their citizens if more dollars were provided? He wants us to urge the legislators to fund their stated priorities.

Viola asked if we can break down the figures down to constituency level i.e. districts and number of voters.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Brett narrated a presentation of the first year of the VOF Strategic Plan. Presentation is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Tom Slater to approve all the minutes as presented:

- Full Board of Trustees June 27, 2019
- Finance Audit and Compliance Committee June 27, 2019
- Special Forestry Committee June 27, 2019
- Special Forestry Committee August 27, 2019

Motion seconded by Beth Obenshain and passed unanimously.

#### **RESOLUTION FOR 2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING DATES**

Motion made by Tom Slater to move the dates of the March meeting to April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the June meeting to June 25<sup>th</sup> and to find an alternate date for the February Finance, Audit and Compliance meeting; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously. ATTACHMENT B

### **OWNED LANDS REPORT**

Leslie gave a short report reviewing the report in the meeting materials.

### **FOREST CORE FUND**

Emily White narrated a presentation reviewing the projects and grant amounts recommended for approval by the Technical Committee and the Special Forestry Committee. Presentation is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

- DCR, Natural Heritage – Chestnut Ridge – Bland County - \$999,500
- DCR, Natural Heritage – Poor Mountain Natural Area Preserve (NAP) – Roanoke County - \$ 452,500
- Roanoke County – Read Mountain Preserve North – Roanoke County - \$620,054
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy – Doc’s Way - Roanoke and Botetourt Counties - \$700,000
- The Conservation Fund – Stanley Land and Lumber – Charlotte County - \$1,000,000
- VOF – House Mountain – Rockbridge County - \$155,000

Viola Baskerville made a motion that the Board of Trustees:

1. Approve the recommended proposals and funding amounts subject to reaching grant agreements with the applicants which include:
  - Assurance of the method of permanent protection for protected forest areas
  - Review of forest management/enhancement activities and conformance with grant expectations;
  - Timing and/or mechanism of perpetual property protection

Beth Obenshain seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

### **TUCKER CEMETERY, HAMPTON, VA PRESENTATION**

Eleanor narrated a Tucker Cemetery presentation which is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.

### **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD) ASSIGNMENTS TO VOF**

Tamara Vance reviewed the package submission and reported that she had already signed three deeds.

### **AMENDMENT REPORT**

Tamara Vance reviewed the annual report of amendments included in the meeting materials.

### **HOUSE MOUNTAIN RESERVE – RBG - 2109 BLA/AMENDMENT/CONVEYANCE**

Leslie Grayson reviewed the meeting materials. Motion made by Tom Slater to approve the BLA; motion seconded by Steph Ridder and passed unanimously.

### **REALLOCATION OF PRESERVATION TRUST FUND (PTF) MONIES**

Estie Thomas reviewed request to reallocate \$134,500 Preservation Trust Fund monies from the Lee Memorial project to the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) project. Motion made by Tom Slater to approve reallocation; motion seconded by Steph Ridder and passed unanimously.

**PTF REQUEST ADDITIONAL FUNDING DANIEL E. GLENN**

Anna Chisholm presented this request. Motion made by Tom Slater to approve the additional funding; motion seconded by Beth Obenshain and passed unanimously.

**PTF LAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

Motion made by Tom Slater to approve all projects from the agenda (listed below) noting the change to the Daniel E. Glenn project where a parcel that was in the original proposal is not being placed under easement as outlined below; motion seconded by Viola Baskerville and passed unanimously.

- William Curtis Bragg -Lunenburg County
- Brankley Farms, Inc. - Mecklenburg County
- John J. Carr, Lauren Carr Harris, Emmett B. Matthews, Robert P. Carr Life Tenant – Brunswick County
- Samuel and Debora Ellington Living Trust - Highland County
- Daniel E. Glenn, Jr. – Home Farm - Prince Edward County – A new map was distributed showing that an additional parcel which will not be included in the easement. The map is on file with the permanent record of this meeting.
- Friends of Dragon Run - Gloucester County
- JAPM LLC, - Mohler – Augusta County
- James D. Jennings & Linwood W. Jennings, Jay D. Jennings - Mecklenburg County
- Charles William Lamie and Fada F. Lamie - Smyth County
- Gap Valley Farm, LLC/Flory - Augusta County

**NAWCA AND ENVIVA GRANT PROJECT\*\***

Motion made by Tom Slater to approve Phillips project; motion seconded by Steph Ridder and passed unanimously.

- Phillips, Sydney Bruce & Gayle - Southhampton County

**PROPOSED LAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

Motion made by Tom Slater to approve projects as listed on the agenda (see below) noting that the Johnston Partners, LLC project approval is contingent upon inclusion of a Right of Way across the railroad tracks; motion seconded by Steph Ridder and passed unanimously.

- Ashton Family Limited Partnership - King George County
- James D. and Christina V. Bailey - Culpeper & Rappahannock Counties
- Bevans, Ronald and Shirley “Federal Hill” - Westmoreland County
- Brooks, John L. & Hope – Essex County
- John Edward Buchanan Clark, Jr. and Kimberly Ryan Clark – Smyth County
- Engel Farms, Inc. - King William County
- Johnston Partners, LLC New Kent County - approval contingent upon a including a Right of Way over the railroad tracks.
- Landon’s Ridge Farm, LLC - King William County
- John F. O’Neil and Patricia T. O’Neil – Augusta County
- Shuford, Elizabeth Ellis – Essex County
- David K. and Robyn J. Simpson - Prince Edward County
- Dan Abe Slemper, Jr. and Kimberly S. Slemper – Smyth County
- Ware Farm, LLC - Essex County
- Strong, Simon – Hanover County – Note: maps submitted with the meeting materials listed incorrect amount of acreage; acreage is correct on the proposal sheet.

**CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CODE OF VIRGINIA §2.2-3711(A)(7)**

At 1:30 pm Brent Thompson made the following motion:

Madame Chair, I move that the Board go into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.7 and for : consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiation or litigating posture of the public body, and consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel:

- a. Jackson River vs. VOF

This closed meeting will be attended only by members of the Board. However, pursuant to Section 2.2- 3712 (F), the Board requests the VOF's Attorney General Counsel, the Executive Director, Deputy Director of Acquisition and Owned Lands, Deputy Director of Stewardship, the Executive Assistant, Deputy Director of Easements and Director of Administration as it believes their presence will reasonably aid the committee in its consideration of topics that are the subject of the meeting.

Motion seconded by Tom Slater and passed unanimously.

At 2:18 pm Brent Thompson conducted the certification:

“WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees conducted 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, Section 2.2-3712.D of the Code requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, 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 only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.”

Brent Thompson so certified, Beth Obenshain so certified, Raul Garcia so certified, Tom Slater so certified, Steph Ridder so certified, Viola Baskerville so certified and Eleanor Brown so certified.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm

ATTACHMENT A  
FINAL

# Evergreen & East End Cemeteries

City of Richmond & Henrico  
County

Protection and restoration of two adjacent historic African-American cemeteries totaling 76 acres. This is the burial place of Maggie L. Walker, John Mitchell, Jr., Sarah Garland Jones, and thousands more Virginians dating from the late 1800s through 2000s.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

**494,055**



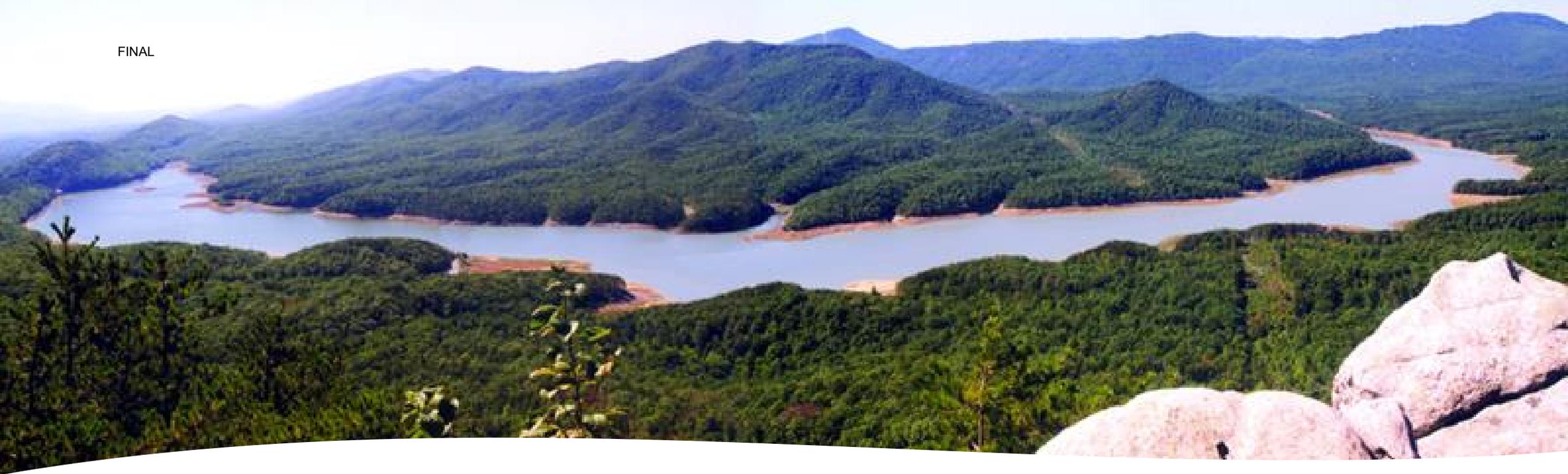
# Four Winds Caroline County

Protects 306 acres of wetlands and forestland on the Rappahannock River east of Fredericksburg, and facilitates providing public shoreline access to the river. Also located in a priority area for the Fort A.P. Hill Army Compatible Use Buffer program.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

**49,023**





# Carvin's Cove

## Roanoke County

The Hinchee Trail project will connect the Roanoke Valley Greenway network to the 12,463-acre Carvins Cove Natural Reserve. Provides biking, walking, and equestrian recreational trails to residents of nearby Salem and Roanoke.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

**219,989**

# Eastern Branch Park

## City of Virginia Beach

Eight acres of wetlands and forest along the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River in an intensely developed area. The project provides a hiking trail along the water and a kayak/canoe launch area for access to the Elizabeth River.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

**829,735**



FINAL

# Hansbrough Ridge

Culpeper County

174 acres notable for the presence of intact archaeological sites and features related to the 1863-1864 Union Army winter encampment. The American Battlefield Trust will facilitate public access to the property and construct amenities such as interpretive trails and signage. The property is identified as part of a proposed new State Park.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

**54,945**





# James River Trail

City of  
Richmond

Permanently protects and provides public access to a strip of private open space between two city-owned parks on the banks of the James River. Access will help to connect the parks and alleviate safety concerns with park users walking on the adjacent road.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

**652,721**

FINAL

# Murray-Dick-Fawcett House

## City of Alexandria

An 18th-century home and garden recognized as one of the oldest and most authentic pre-Revolutionary War buildings remaining within the Alexandria Historic District. The city manages the site as a public museum and garden space.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

# 739,961





# Captain Sinclair Recreation Area

Gloucester  
County

Protects and provides permanent access and funding for recreational development of a 97-acre parcel on the Severn River near Mobjack Bay. The property contains a mix of hardwood and pine forest, tidal wetlands, and non-tidal wetlands.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

**47,795**

FINAL

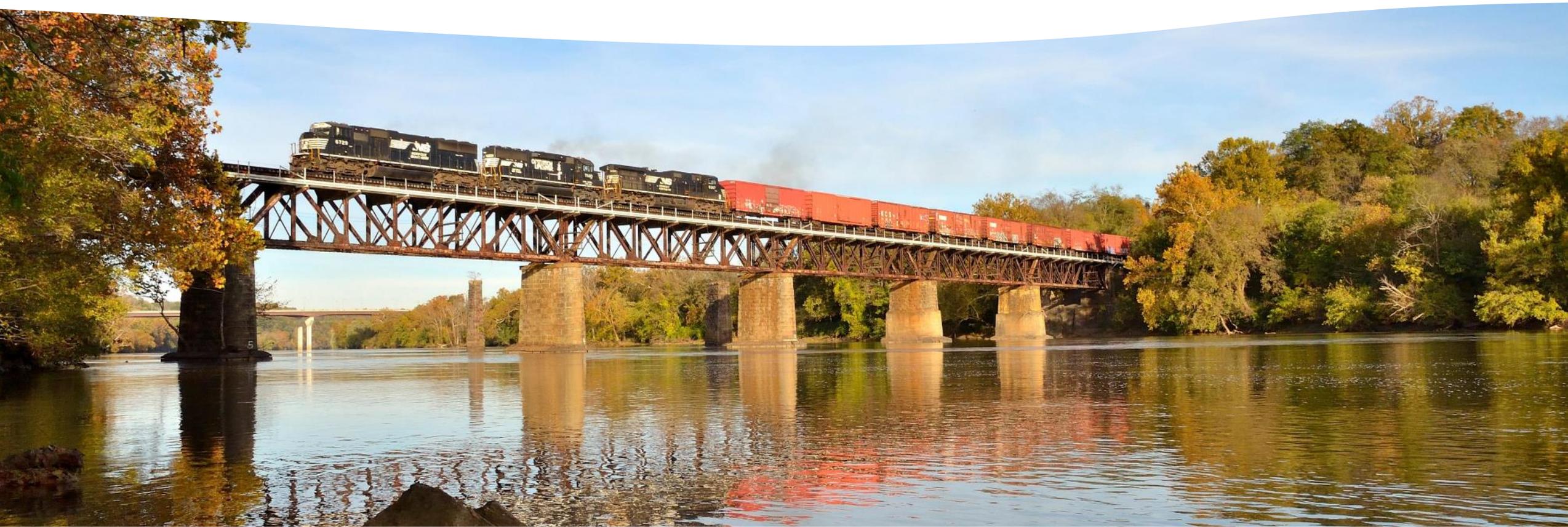
# Hazel Hollow

## Pulaski County

The county acquired 11 acres on the New River that will extend the planned bicycling/walking trail along the river from a nearby former school site and a new county park facilitated by VOF, Smith Farm. The project will enable the new trails on the north side of the New River to link with the City of Radford's Bisset Park on the south side.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

# 78,968



# Tucker Family Cemetery

## City of Hampton

Protects and provides restoration funding for an historic African-American cemetery dating to the early 17th century, and believed to hold the remains of William Tucker, who was the first person of African descent born in the English New World.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

**362,599**



FINAL

# Hottel-Keller Memorial

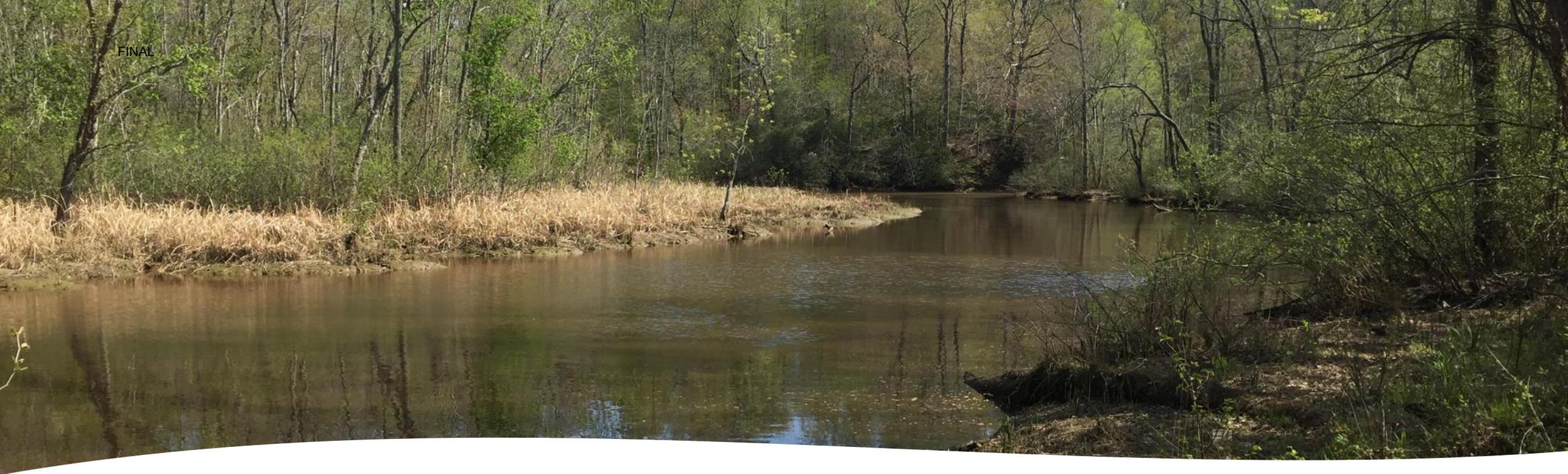
Shenandoah  
County

Protects and expands access to a 391-acre historic homestead owned by Hottel-Keller Memorial, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the cultural heritage of early Germanic immigrants into the Shenandoah Valley.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

**29,675**





# Malvern Hill

## Henrico County

Protects 24 acres along Turkey Island Creek and the Virginia Capital Trail. This project facilitates the development of a canoe/kayak launch along the trail that will provide access to the James River and James River Ecology School at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge.

**Population within a 10-mile radius:**

**102,590**

# PTF Funding Summary

Fiscal Year	Total Funding	Public Access	Cost-Only
2016	\$1,000,000	\$650,000	\$350,000
2017	\$2,000,000	\$1,550,000	\$450,000
2018	\$900,000	\$650,000	\$250,000
2019	\$0	\$0	\$0
2020	\$1,125,000	\$600,000	\$525,000

- The 12 public access projects recorded provide permanent public access to an estimated 3 million Virginians – **87¢ per person**.
- The 91 cost-only easements recorded protect an additional 23,673 acres of farmland, forests, and other open space -- **\$66 per acre**.



Lunenburg County

## Cost-Only Easements



Halifax County



Bland County



Washington County

**RESOLUTION**

**VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION (VOF) BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
RESOLUTION TO SET VOF MEETING DATES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

WHEREAS, The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) Board of Trustees typically meets several times a year to consider easement proposals and matters of land conservation policy;

WHEREAS, as there may be compelling reasons to adjust the schedule which may be done at the discretion of the Chair in consultation with the trustees; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation Board of Trustees, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019, That the following dates are hereby adopted for VOF Board of Trustee meetings, including committee meetings in the calendar year 2020.

<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Date</b>
Finance, Audit & Compliance Committee Mid-Year/Audit Review	Thursday, February 25, 2020 Warrenton
Special Forestry Fund Committee	Thursday, April 2, 2020 Petersburg
Board of Trustees	Thursday, April 2, 2020 Petersburg
Energy & Infrastructure Committee	Thursday, April 2, 2020 Petersburg
Finance, Audit & Compliance Committee Budget Preparation	Thursday, April 30, 2020 Hampton Public Library
Preservation Trust Fund Committee	Thursday, June 25, 2020 Fauquier County
Full Board of Trustees	Thursday, June 25, 2020 Fauquier County
Special Forestry Fund Committee	Tuesday, August 18, 2020 Richmond
Full Board of Trustees Meeting	Thursday, September 24, 2020 Charlottesville

Adopted by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ for and \_\_\_\_\_0 against

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ATTEST: Brett C. Glymph, Executive Director